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cgmagazine

celebrating greyhounds

Fall 2005

ALSO INSIDE:

Heartworm Prevention

Greyhound Gatherings Abroad

Sleep Startle and Space Aggression

Old and Grey

Our Beloved Senior Greyhounds

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Front Cover Credit:

Twelve and-a-half year old Snip relaxes contentedly at home. Will Shumaker's photograph of Snip is the winner of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's* first-ever Cover Dog Photo Search. Will and Snip live in Tampa, Fla.

Back Cover Credit:

Twelve-year-old Jacqueline was adopted by Marge Bazsika of Henderson, Nev. Marge's photograph of Jacqueline was runner up in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's* first-ever Cover Dog Photo Search.

Grumpy, age 10, adopted by Cherie Damron of Burton, Ohio. Cherie's photograph of Grumpy received Honorable Mention in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's* first-ever Cover Dog Photo Search.



Adam, age 12, adopted by Ady and Craig Cerreta of University Park, Fla.

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By Cindy Hanson

This has always been my favorite time of year. As the oppressive heat and humidity of Summer yield to clear, crisp Fall, the trees burst forth in riotous color. The cool air carries the aroma of decomposing leaves and burning firewood. The days grow shorter, and the wind seems to whisper . . . *hurry, hurry*. The pegs by the back door fill up with fleece jackets, for both humans and dogs. We drape Fall around us, roll in it, and hold it close, because we know that it is fleeting; another interminable Winter is close at hand.

It seems fitting that the Fall issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* is devoted to seniors. Anyone who shares their home and heart with an old dog knows why. Senior Greyhounds have a special beauty and grace more keenly felt as their remaining time with us grows shorter. This conviction is abundantly clear in the words of the writers who have contributed to this issue on the subject of seniors. Nancy Waddell explores the joys of living with a senior Greyhound. Kate Bressler, Ann Peterson, and Sue Burkhard describe their experience placing studs and broods into adoption. Nancy Bataille shares suggestions for finding adoptive homes for senior Greyhounds, and Mary Bauer explains what it's like to watch your Greyhound age.

Living with a senior Greyhound is about embracing life, including its limitations; celebrating the present, in the face of an all-too-certain future; and savoring the joys and sorrows of a life well loved.

On a personal note, the themes of this issue have had particular resonance for me. As we were in the final stages of putting this issue together, I lost both of my parents. My father succumbed to complications of a stroke, and my mother had Alzheimer's Disease. They were in their mid-60s, and they died within six weeks of each other. Watching them change as they struggled with their illnesses and reconciling my memories of their younger selves with who they became was enormously difficult. But beauty and dignity survive, even in the midst of diminution . . . it's just a matter of where you look, how closely, and how long.

I am grateful for the support and patience that our editorial staff, design team, and contributors extended to me during this tough time. Thank you.

*And the days dwindle down
To a precious few
September, November
And these few precious days
I spend with you.
These precious days
I spend with you.*

"September Song"

© 1938 Maxwell Anderson/Kurt Weill



Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

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SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

CG Magazine, Attention: Subscriptions, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701; subscriptions@adopt-a-greyhound.org. Allow eight weeks for change of address.

SUBMISSIONS

For writing and photography guidelines, visit www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cmagazine/guidelines.html or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to CG Magazine Guidelines, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. Initial queries preferred.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND QUESTIONS

CG Magazine/Editorial Office, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112; editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org.

ADVERTISING

CG Magazine/Advertising, PO Box 5239, Framingham, MA 01701; advertising@adopt-a-greyhound.org. Advertising information and guidelines are also located at www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cmagazine/advertise.html.

WEB ADDRESS

www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cmagazine

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Further thoughts on Greyhounds and the Law

Even for a publication as unfailingly impressive as CG, your Spring 2005 issue is a standout. I feel that Mike Horan's cautionary tale, "It Happened to Me: A Greyhound Owner's Brush with the Law," should be reprinted in newspapers and animal publications throughout the country. And who could forget Mindy Bradley's beautiful "Lean On Me," or the equally beautiful picture of Bradley and her Hero Hound, Visa? As for the magazine cover, I have not seen one so stunning in all my years. I could look at that face day and night. In fact, I do. Thank you, *Celebrating Greyhounds*, for honoring Earl with a cover photo.

Cindy Victor
Woodbury, Minn.

It looks like our story ("It Happened to Me: A Greyhound Owner's Brush With the Law," Spring 2005 CG) will end soon. I received an offer to go to Phoenix. My house is for sale and we are out of here as soon as I close. All are thrilled about moving. Peanut is so happy about being able to walk in her neighborhood that she has lost her head.

Mike Horan
Via E-Mail

We appreciate the articles in the Spring 2005 CG Magazine on Greyhounds and the law. Our small city has had a lot of dog attacks in the last year. They have finally adopted a dog ordinance. Your articles on this subject have helped us recognize potential attacks and how we and our beautiful Greyhound, Jersey, can avoid them.

Julie Dampman
Via E-Mail

The articles on dog bite liability were great. One issue that was not addressed was the effect a dog bite can have on your insurance. It can affect the liability insurance of an adoption group and the homeowner's policy of an adopter. Some insurance companies will pay the claim for the first bite then drop the homeowner's insurance if they don't give up (rehome or euthanize) the dog. Insurance companies are selective about the breeds of dogs they will insure. Check with your insurance carrier to see if they cover the breeds that are in your home and what their policy is on dog bites.

Alan and Peggy Jordano
Via E-Mail



Peanut prepares for her move. Mike Horan

Michigan REGAP's lawsuit

The Directors of Michigan Retired Greyhounds as Pets would like to respond to the Spring 2005 editorial ("Editorial Comments"). The editorial highlighted a lawsuit filed as a result of a child being bitten by a Greyhound in a foster home. The editorial referenced a summary by *The Michigan Trial Reporter* that contained inaccurate information and omitted relevant details.

Michigan REGAP's foster home program includes in-home visits, formal training, signed contracts, and regular contact by trained volunteers. The foster home caregiver who was also a co-defendant was never a REGAP board member. The foster home caregiver was properly trained and signed a document indicating her understanding that children can never be left unsupervised with a foster Greyhound. Michigan REGAP never stated that all Greyhounds were abused and drugged. Ms. Perron maintained throughout her deposition that because Greyhounds are confined most of their racing careers and not raised in a home environment, they lack certain socialization skills that explain the need for stringent foster home guidelines. REGAP never stated we had knowledge this Greyhound was abused. Finally, REGAP has never required that foster Greyhounds receive no human contact. Like most conscientious groups, we restrict foster homes from taking our foster Greyhounds to meet-and-greets.

Details from the legal summary published in CG were taken from flawed arguments made by the various attorneys involved and did not include an actual review of depositions.

The lawsuit was settled between the insurance carriers before going to trial. REGAP was found liable not because we were negligent, but because REGAP owned the dog. The foster home was found negligent because the Greyhound was in her sole custody,

care and control. The Greyhound involved in this incident was placed in a loving, childfree home with full disclosure of this incident and continues to do well.

Lenka Perron and Leslie Forys

Co-directors and founders,

Michigan Retired Greyhounds as Pets

In a March 25, 2005 e-mail to CG, Lenka Perron stated: "We are currently working through our law firm to get the piece [in The Michigan Trial Reporter] either corrected or removed." At this writing — nearly three months later — a spokesperson for The Michigan Trial Reporter confirms that it has not been approached by anyone about correction or removal of the summary of Michigan REGAP's case. Moreover, the spokesperson stated that the information contained in the summary — which was referenced by "Editorial Comments" in the Spring issue of CG — was supplied, reviewed, and approved by attorneys representing both sides of the case before it appeared in their publication.

In the final paragraph of their statement, the co-directors of Michigan REGAP state they were "found liable" because of their ownership of the dog, and the foster caregiver was "found negligent" because the dog was in her custody. Yet they state that the suit was settled before going to trial. How could any of the parties have been found liable or negligent if the case was settled before going to court?

One thing is certain — those readers who care to draw their own conclusions about this case will need to do so based on second-hand information, because after more than two and a half years of promising to write an article for CG sharing the facts about this tragic case and the lessons it contains for the Greyhound adoption community, Ms. Perron changed her mind. —Ed.

Copyright or wrong

Kathy Hoynes's article ("Hey, hey, hey . . . That's MINE! Copyright Issues for Vendors and Adoption Groups, Spring 2005 CG) displayed two t-shirts: "My Greyhound is an Honor Student at Couch Potato U.," and "Couch Potato University." They are both terrific! And I would love to be able to obtain one or the other. Is there any way you could help me with how I can reach Kathy Hoynes? Any information would be appreciated.

Frances Goodwin
Stevensville, Mont.

Kathy Hoynes responds: *The photos on page 35 display the front and back of the same t-shirt. As the Greyhound image used on this t-shirt was pirated from one of my copyrighted designs and being sold without my consent, this t-shirt is no longer available. However, if you are able to obtain this shirt and/or design, I would be very interested to hear where and from whom you purchased it.*

I commend you on this latest issue, which I think is the very best thus far, because of the highly informative subject matter. It is with a very heavy heart that I am writing this, with Edgar's smiling, happy face staring back at me ("Edgar's Story," Spring 2005 CG). Poor, beautiful, dear, sweet Edgar. I was appalled at the actions of the ignorant adopter. After having adopted Edgar only five weeks earlier, where was the crate and why wasn't Edgar in it? Kudos to the Michigan vets who refused to euthanize Edgar, but shame on the vet who did. Things such as this make adoption groups

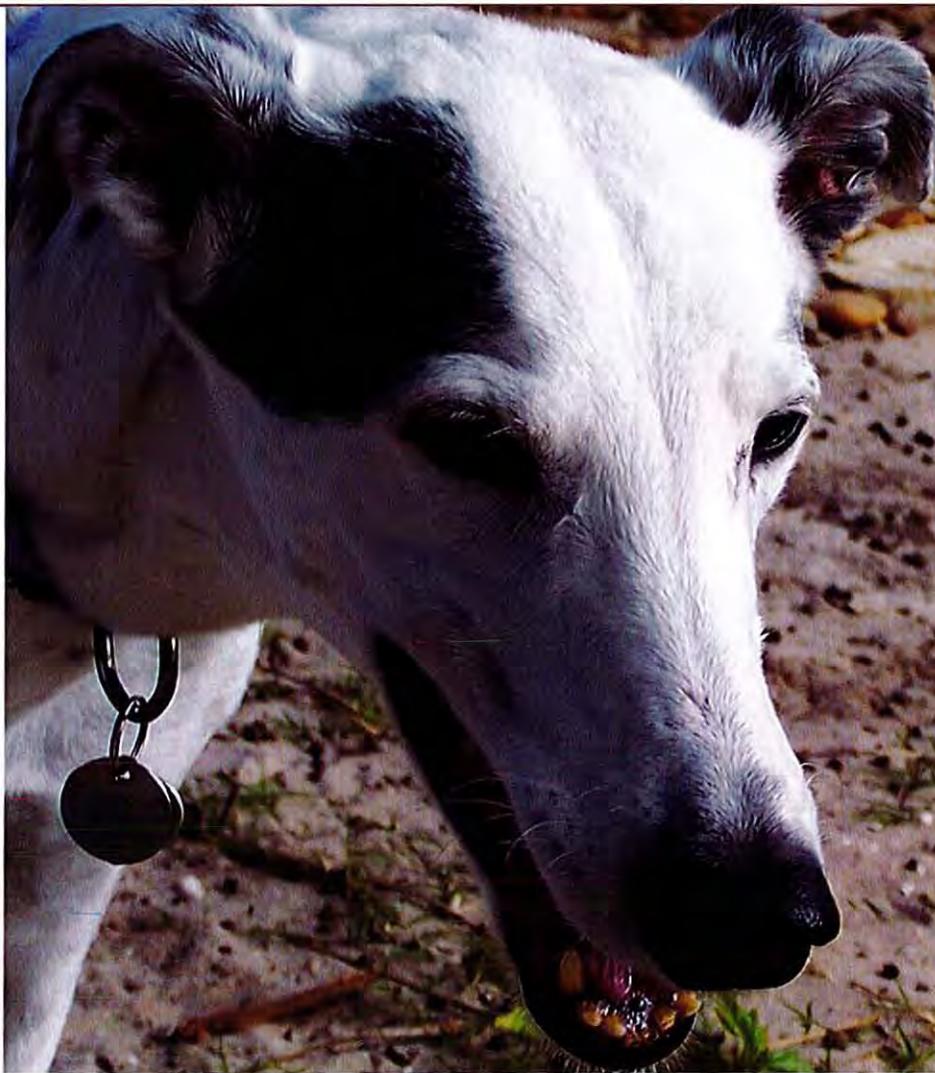
and volunteers review adoption agreements and screen out potential adopters more stringently to ensure we never have another Greyhound endure poor Edgar's plight. Thank you CG for an absolutely wonderful magazine.

Christie Swan-Goble
Tremont, Me.

I read Edgar's story with shock, disgust, heartbreak, and outrage. Six years ago, my father's 9-year-old Greyhound, Missy, lunged at me when accidentally disturbed from her sleep, ripping open my face to the tune of 200 stitches. I have considerable scarring to this day. Dozens of well-meaning people asked: "When did you put her down?" Long story short: Missy was responding to an improper dose of medication that made her aggressive. Once off the medication, she was a gentle, loving soul. We did not return or euthanize her. After my father died, I was Missy's care-



Snip, age 12 and a half, adopted by Will Shumaker of Tampa, Fla. Will's photograph of Snip received Honorable Mention in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's* Cover Dog Search.



Windsong, age 11, adopted by Sarah P. Jones of Cocoa, Fla.

taker until she died three years later. We were best friends, playmates, snuggle pals. I now have Dudley, another Greyhound who is my soulmate. I would never adopt any other breed. Missy lives on in my heart and continues to inspire me.

**Leslie Machinist
Morristown, N.J**

Soggy hanky

I subscribed to your magazine shortly after adopting my first Greyhound, Kickin'. I wanted to find out any information I could, especially in light of the bizarre medical ailments she had experience and continues to experience to this day. I have enjoyed reading your medical columns. Even though there has not been a topic about any of Kickin's ailments yet, I feel that I am well-educated and prepared for future problems. However, lately I have noticed that there are a lot more horror stories than educational stories. I realize that there are many dogs

in trouble, but at this point I can tell by looking at the photos that a story will probably be alarming. I have not made it through the past three issues. Perhaps you could consider a better balance regarding content?

**Michelle Gereaux-Karim
Roanoke, Va.**

Thanks so much for the article by Kenine Comstock ("Eliminating Osteosarcoma in Greyhounds: How You Can Help," Spring 2005 CG)! Her study is exactly what we in the Greyhound community have been wishing for. The thought of eliminating bone cancer in Greyhounds is uplifting. I hear of several Greyhounds a week who have been diagnosed with bone cancer, and it makes me so angry. I look forward to hearing more about this study as it moves forward.

**Kathy Rowley
Lakewood, Colo.**

Readers seeking information

I would like to contact Belinda Brzezinski, who wrote a letter in the Spring 2005 issue ("CG Readers Speak Out") about her once shy Greyhound. She went through the same thing that I am currently experiencing and I would love to contact her and get some information. If you could help me in any way it would be greatly appreciated.

**Jeanette Anthony
Via E-Mail**

Belinda, if you contact me, I will forward your message to Jeanette. —Ed.

I am a director of a Greyhound rescue group. We are interested in setting up a fund to assist owners of Greyhounds who cannot afford needed medical care for their Greyhounds. I have seen items referring to a trust fund, but am not sure that this is the way to go. The information suggests there would be a yearly fee to maintain such a fund. Do you have any information on such a fund?

**Michele Burrell
Greyhound Rescue of New York
Via E-Mail**

Readers who have information to share with Michele can contact her group at 1-877-278-2194. —Ed.

Thank you for your letters (up to 300 words) and photographs. Please send letters and photos by mail to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine, Attn: Editor, PO Box 120048, Saint Paul, MN 55112. Letters sent via e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org are also appreciated. Please include your home telephone number if you would like your letter to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

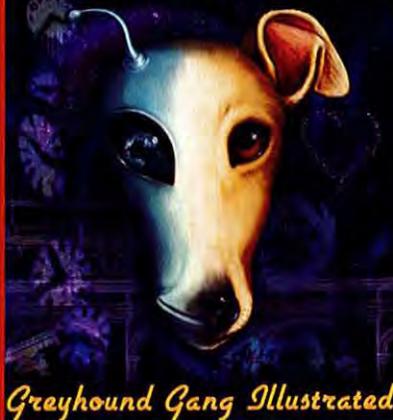
We regret that we cannot publish every letter and photo.

DOG STARS

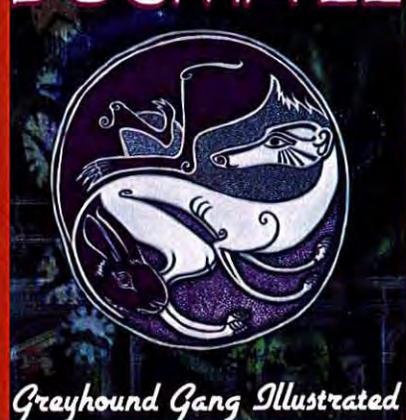
Greyhound Gang Illustrated



DOGMA



DOGMA II



Greyhound Comic Books

Reviewed by Mary Waterloo Smith

Dog Stars, Dogma, Dogma II

Published by the Greyhound Gang

P.O. Box 274, Kanab, UT 84741

(2002, 2003)

\$11.95 per issue

What on earth goes into a Greyhound comic book, besides lots of Greyhound drawings? I had visions of a “Superhound,” a “Flying Racer,” or even perhaps a “Spiderpaw”— all potentially ridiculous, but you never know. *The Greyhound Gang Illustrated* series presents something completely different and totally unexpected. It consists of three volumes: *Dog Stars* (the premiere issue, published in October 2002), *Dogma* (Volume II, May 2003), and *Dogma II* (Volume III, October 2003). Over the course of these issues, a rather fascinating story line develops, ultimately leading to a “long ago, in a galaxy far, far away” scenario, all set within a cluster of disparate yet undeniably related Greyhound constellations and meta-forms of the Greyhound experience.

The *Greyhound Gang Illustrated* series was inspired by a casual get-together with Claudia Presto of the Greyhound Gang and her artist

friend, Lynn Roick. After tossing around some ideas about Greyhound comic strips, the next logical step was a “Why not?” brainstorm that resulted in the first issue, *Dog Stars*. Artists donated extensive time and talent to the cause. Claudia wrote all text and theme ideas for the three issues. The illustrations emerged from the story lines. Claudia sums up the rather complex layers and levels of her stories with a simple synopsis: “Greyhounds are portrayed as alien beings who come and save the earth through love.”

Any reader of *Celebrating Greyhounds* has already encountered the work of one or more of the seven contributing artists: Mike Gustavich, Kathy Hoynes, Karen McDonald, Julie Neidlinger, Kim Parkhurst, Lynn Roick, and Jennifer Zalewski. It is notable that so many artists are willing to donate time and talent to the support of Greyhound adoption. The artists’ different visions of the same subject are fascinating to view — there are so many ways to draw a Greyhound, and evoke a smile or a tear. Art comes from the inside looking out; taking it in and somehow trying to express the emotion and essence of what you see, and then trying to share that vision

with others. As an artist, I can only stand in awe at these three volumes of Greyhound art and say, “Wow, I really wish I’d thought of that!”

The cover art for each of the three volumes is a hint of things to come. Kim Parkhurst’s mystical renderings provide covers that evoke a sense of expectancy, a hint of the unknown that lurks just beneath the surface of the familiar, a promise of mysteries beyond the skies. The celestial arrivals portrayed at the gate of the Greyhound Gang’s own ranch allude to heavenly visitations to come. Opening the pages of *Dog Stars*, Volume I, readers are brought down to earth with Jen Zalewski’s rendering of an all-too-familiar experience: that of an overcrowded human bed piled with long, wet noses and longer bony legs, while the bedroom floor is littered with empty, abandoned Greyhound beds. This 13-page first issue is short but enjoyable. A baker’s dozen vignettes of “Fred” by Karen McDonnell are brilliantly simple snapshots of Greyhound moments in the life of a “perfect” hound who always does as he’s told. Julie Neidlinger’s somewhat cynical, simply drawn golden hound in “Taste of Honey” makes us

wonder what our sweet little Greyhounds may really be thinking, as they come along on errands and patiently endure meet-and-greets. Slick, the calculating, cerebral hound created by Kathy Hoynes, makes two appearances, raising our consciousness concerning Greyhound inventiveness. And Lynn Roick offers a pair of eloquent expressions of one archetypal, harassed Greyhound mom's lifestyle, a portrait of Claudia herself! Finally, Mike Gustovich gets a hound in edgewise as he closes *Dog Stars* with a performance by his masterful hound, "Amazing Vinnie." A picture is worth a thousand words as the commentary wordily illustrates. However, it's a lot less work and a lot more fun to simply page through the comic book.

Hold on and tighten your seatbelts Greyhounds and galaxy-hoppers; the next installment, *Dogma*, Volume II, takes off in a whole new direction. Wonderfully illustrated in its entirety by Julie Neidlinger, the going-backwards-to-go-forwards "Star Wars thing" kicks in with an unexpected twist. Meet an alien race "whose pure purpose is to love and to spread love," confront a mysterious, spread-

ing evil force, and encounter, among others, Ghandi, Martin Luther King, and the Beatles. In *Dogma*, Greyhounds play a surprising and significant role in our historical/cultural context. The stage is set for a future cataclysmic battle between good and evil that moves readers directly into *Dogma II*, the third installment of the series. *Dogma II* proves to be the most poignant volume of all, as several individuals experience life transformation by means of a relentless, unswerving outpouring of love, an explosion of bunnies (good, not gory), and a return to paradise on earth. The longest issue (at 17 pages), *Dogma II* is possibly the most engaging, and a satisfying finish to the storyline introduced in the preceding issue, *Dogma*.

So what is the message of this delightful blend of Greyhound cartoon art, a blend of visual commentary and positive exhortation? Each volume is so different, how could they possibly be connected? What I gleaned from this work was communication through a sense of purpose; that purpose being to make a difference through helping, in whatever way possible, to support Greyhound adoption. In

opening eyes, you raise awareness. In raising awareness, you raise funds. By in raising funds, you are enabled to meet needs; and in meeting needs, lives are changed. These Greyhound comic books are storytelling at its most effective; they make you aware of something you already know about, but they challenge you to think differently.

Greyhound Gang Illustrated is a delightfully creative, thought-provoking collage of a collective, insightful Greyhound vision. Those who live with Greyhounds will instantly relate. Some will be drawn even closer to a heart-understanding of Greyhounds and those who love them. Open and share just one of these more-than-comics for an immediate "adoption tool," a snapshot album of life with Greyhounds. Your audience will wonder just what it might be like to have such a special canine friend. It feels something like a long, pointy Greyhound nose reaching tentatively to give a timid Greyhound kiss—willing to risk a little rejection to maybe make a friend. Concerning this simple truth, painted in so many different colors, artists and critics must agree: All you need is love, and every single person does make a difference. Yes, you can. ■



Maya (age 11) and Jetson (age 12), adopted by Johanna Dragner of Sarasota, Fla.

Mary Waterloo Smith is a cat artist who loves dogs, especially Greyhounds Nester and Solomon. She lives with her husband and more than a dozen assorted feline, canine and human family members in Pensacola, Fla., amid hurricanes and hairballs. Writing, painting, and cat pottery are accomplished between veterinary appointments. Her business name, Red Hot Kitties, gives many people the wrong impression (it's not what you think).



New approaches to veterinary dentistry make for a happy Greyhound. Capri Cruise, age 12, adopted by Cathryn Holdgraf of League City, Texas.

Advances in Dental Care

By Dr. William E. Freeman, III

Periodontal disease is the most common disease of dogs and cats of any age, experts believe. The American Veterinary Dental Society estimates that by the time they are 3 years old, 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease. Untreated periodontal disease is thought to lead to bacteremia (circulating bacteria in the blood stream), which can lead to significant liver, heart, or kidney disease.

Greyhounds commonly suffer from dental disease. Some Greyhounds have a hyperimmune (exaggerated) response to plaque and calculus that can result in severe inflammation inside the mouth itself. This condition is known as chronic ulcerative paradental stomatitis.

Dental disease can begin to take hold within just a few hours of a dental cleaning. A

biofilm forms on the teeth, which can then be colonized by bacteria. If left undisturbed, this combination of biofilm and bacteria can adhere more strongly to the teeth; this is known as plaque. Untreated plaque allows for the deposit of salivary minerals and the formation of hardened calculus. Although calculus itself does not cause periodontal disease, it provides a safe environment for bacteria to thrive.

Fighting Back

Traditional treatment for dental disease includes dental chews, rinses, brushing, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and dental cleanings. As the saying goes, "It is good to chew, it is better to rinse, and it is best to brush." Whatever the treatment, it should be performed daily to prevent the formation of plaque.

One of the main advantages of brushing is

that it disrupts the biofilm on the teeth. Research has shown that it takes much higher concentrations of antibacterial agents to kill the bacteria in an undisturbed biofilm; thus, it is important to prevent the biofilm from taking hold.

Recent advances in veterinary dentistry have improved the quality of dental care that your pet can receive.

Australian company Virbac has added a new twist to its veterinary dental rinse and gel. Both products contain the active ingredient chlorhexidine in a microencapsulated form that allows it to bind to the gums and gingiva, resulting in a prolonged duration of effect.

A new product released in 2004 for the treatment of dental disease is Merial's OraVet™ healthcare system. OraVet™ is a patented, biologically inert, waxy polymer

that binds electrostatically to the surface of the tooth, creating an invisible physical barrier that prevents bacteria from attaching to the tooth. This two-part system requires both veterinary and home care. The OraVet™ Barrier Sealant is applied as the last step of a dental cleaning in the veterinarian's office after the pet's mouth is dried. Beginning two weeks after the dental cleaning, the OraVet™ Plaque Prevention Gel is applied by the owner once weekly. The gel contains the same active ingredient as the OraVet™ Barrier Sealant but in a less concentrated form that is easier to apply. The gel is odorless, tasteless, and can normally be applied in less than 60 seconds. Two studies evaluating the efficacy of this treatment have shown OraVet™ to decrease mean plaque scores by 24 to 42 percent and mean calculus scores by 47 percent. While OraVet™ is a relative newcomer to the veterinary product line, it is showing a lot of promise in the prevention of periodontal disease. You can read more about OraVet™ in "Slip-Slidin' Away with ProVSEAL™" in the Winter 2002 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds* (the product was called ProVSeal™ before it was purchased by Merial for veterinary use in 2004).

The use of dental radiography (X-rays) is becoming more common in veterinary medicine. Dental radiography allows for evaluation of alveolar bone loss (around the tooth roots), abscesses, fractures, retained root tips, malformed teeth, resorptive root lesions, and other abnormalities that cannot be seen with the naked eye. It is often said that the crown of the tooth (the portion we can see) is just the tip of the iceberg; two-thirds of the tooth lies beneath the gum line.

It is important to differentiate a dental radiograph machine from a standard radiograph machine. A standard radiograph machine is not ideal for dental X-rays for several reasons. First, the focal film distance, angulation, and collimation (all of which improve the quality of the radiographs) require very fine adjustments to take good dental radiographs, and they cannot be easily adjusted with a standard X-ray machine. In addition, a standard radiograph machine is rarely stored in the room where dental procedures are performed. If X-rays are necessary during a dental procedure, transporting the patient to the radiograph room can be cumbersome and time consuming. Finally, a stan-

dard radiograph machine is unable to isolate dental structures, which makes interpretation of the radiographs difficult. Accurate dental radiographs can prevent unnecessary extractions and allow for more aggressive treatment of periodontal disease.

Vaccinating for Dental Health

A very new product that is currently being researched by Pfizer Animal Health is a periodontal disease vaccine. Pfizer's research has shown that a group of bacteria classified as Black-Pigmented Anaerobic bacteria (BPAB) are found in more than 90 percent of dogs with periodontal disease. The six most common isolates found are known to result in alveolar bone loss when left untreated in the mouse periodontitis model. Based on these isolates, a whole-cell vaccine was created in order to try to boost animals' natural immunity against the bacteria. The vaccine was experimentally administered to mice subcutaneously (under the skin), and all mice showed a strong antibody response to the vaccine. Furthermore, vaccinated mice showed significant reductions in bone loss when challenged with most of the bacterial isolates. Further clinical trials are currently being conducted and this product will likely not be approved for use until late 2005 or 2006 (if it is approved for use).

Veterinary dentistry is one of the fastest growing areas of veterinary medicine today. Some of the newer innovations in the field will help to keep your pet in better dental health. ■

Dr. Feeman is a 2002 graduate of The Ohio State University of Veterinary Medicine and currently practices in Ohio. He is an active volunteer for Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, a member of Veterinarians for Retired Racing Greyhounds, and a CG regular contributor.

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Molly (age 4) and Mimi (age 10), adopted by Kevin and Kelly McKinney of Ballwin, Mo.



Sleep startle and space guarding both involve aggressive behavior from a Greyhound who has been disturbed. Eleven-year-old Alice, adopted by Fernand and Pamela Samson of Petersborough, Ont.

Sleep Startle and Space Aggression

By Lee Livinggood

Sleep startle is a common issue among newly adopted Greyhounds and is easily misunderstood or confused with the more serious issue of space guarding. No one wants to believe that his or her dog is aggressive. Many adopters will make excuses for or rationalize the behavior of their dogs. Sadly, by doing so they nearly always sentence their dogs to a lifetime of problem behavior because the longer the behavior goes untreated, the less likely it is to be manageable. Worse, the behavior may escalate — with tragic consequences. And in the end, the Greyhound will most likely be the loser.

Sleep startle is a bark, growl, snap, or bite that occurs *only* if the dog is clearly asleep when you or another animal disturb him.

Because track and farm Greyhounds aren't likely to have ever been disturbed during sleep by being touched or bumped, many newly adopted Greyhounds will display some level of this kind of behavior. It occurs wherever the Greyhound is sleeping, regardless of location — not just when he is in a valued sleep space like your bed, his bed or crate, or a favorite sofa or chair. Most reactions are mild — a simple startle or perhaps a growl that really seems more of a grumble before the dog runs off. Some reactions are more severe — lunging or snapping at a person or animal. A few reactions are extreme — biting. Sleep startle usually lasts only a few weeks if you address it early, and for the purposes of this discussion, it does not include a serious aggressive display or

the dog's teeth on your body. That is a more serious issue that requires professional help.

Space guarding, on the other hand, happens whether the dog is awake or asleep. It is one of the many forms that resource guarding can take. It often involves a valued sleeping space such as a sofa, a favorite dog bed, or a person's bed. But some dogs will guard any space they are occupying. Some will guard it only from other dogs. But some will guard it from anyone, animal or human. Some do nothing more than growl. Others will lunge, snap, or bite with varying degrees of severity. Space guarding is usually more severe than sleep startle and is more difficult to treat.

Let's look at some things you can do to help prevent sleep startle and space guarding.



Keys, age 10, adopted by Kathy Campbell of Hummelstown, Pa.

Sleep Startle

I begin to work on this as soon as my new dog has had a couple of days to settle in. Until I have made sure there are no issues or that we have worked through them, my new addition is not allowed access to my bed.

Assuming I haven't seen any evidence of space guarding, I start by sitting on the floor with a dog who is awake. I place a blanket over my legs and a long pole that has a stuffed sock attached to the end with duct tape — like a broomstick with no broom — next to my leg. I keep my face well away from his face. I gently nudge him with my fake foot as I toss him a treat. As he learns to like this game, I nudge more and more firmly — still tossing treats with each nudge, provided he shows no negative reaction to my nudges. Later I start the game as he's falling asleep. And finally I do it when he's been sleeping for a while.

Once I know there is no reaction to the fake foot, I start the process over with my real foot. Again, I start with gentle bumps when the dog is awake and work my way to more intrusive bumps as we continue, giving treats with each trial. Be sure you are doing both awake and sleeping trials in lit and darkened rooms. If all is going well, we move it to the sofa and continue to practice. If there are no issues, we finally take it to the bed and work on it during the night when the dog is actually asleep.

If you move slowly, these techniques will generally resolve sleep startle. But if your Greyhound's response is anything beyond a grumble or a look toward you, ask your adoption group, your veterinarian, or a behavior consultant for guidance.

Do be aware that as your Greyhound approaches his senior years, some sleep startle

may return or appear for the first time. As dogs age, they tend to lose some hearing and sleep more soundly. If your senior seems more jumpy, try to alert him to your presence with a sharp thump on the floor with your foot before you try to touch him. Senior dogs are also more likely to be suffering from more aches and pains and being jostled can cause discomfort. If your hound is clearly awake and aware of your presence, but simply seems touchier about being bumped or moved, consult your vet to be sure you aren't ignoring what might be a very treatable health issue. Some behavior changes can also be the result of the aging process, but that doesn't mean they can't be improved with medications or supplementation. See your vet if your otherwise charming, but aging, hound suddenly starts getting grumpy about being touched or moved.

Space Guarding

The difference between space guarding and sleep startle is that sleep startle only occurs if your dog is sleeping. Space guarding can occur whether your Greyhound is asleep or awake.

The best way to deal with space guarding is not to give your dog the opportunity to establish his own rules. That's your job as his leader. I spend a lot of time teaching my dogs that behaviors that show deference to me are highly desirable and rewarded accordingly.

Before you start these exercises, use your fake foot to test your dog's reaction. Assuming he has shown few or no signs of space guarding, after he's had a couple days to settle, start gently shuffling into him when he is lying in front of you (be sure he's awake). As you approach him, say *move* as you toss a treat so he must get up in order to retrieve. Do this

several times a day. Keep some treats or dry dog food in your pocket so you always have something to toss.

As you practice this you can also teach him to move without shuffling into him. When he is at rest, simply toss a treat that he has to get up to retrieve. As you toss, say *move*. Repeat this three or four times in each session and do several sessions each day. In a few days, do a couple of repetitions with a treat. For the next repetition in this training session, use the same hand motion but without a treat in your hand. As you pretend to toss, say *move*. Chances are by now he's played the game often enough that he'll move even though there is no food in your hand. As soon as he moves, give him the treat. If he isn't ready to do this without food, just keep practicing. Each practice session, do one or two trials with food, then try it once with no food. He'll eventually catch on to this new game. From this point on, do practice sessions from time to time to keep him sharp and remind him how much fun it is to get out of your way. If hasn't shown an inappropriate response to being moved, you can speed this along by saying *move* as you take his collar and move him. As soon as he complies, give him a treat.

Cheyenne, our almost 9-year-old Greyhound, knows this game so well that when I enter the living room in the morning with coffee mug in hand, she immediately jumps off the sofa as I approach. And after six years of training she still gets a treat for showing deference to me.

Because Greyhounds have had a much different up bringing than the average pet dog, mild to moderate space guarding and other resource guarding among newly adopted Greyhounds is often highly treatable. The key is to recognize it and take action early, before the behavior escalates and becomes firmly entrenched. If you do see an issue developing, do not ignore it and do not be embarrassed to ask for guidance. Learn more about how to be an effective leader and get help from your adoption group or a qualified professional. Denying a problem could lead to serious consequences — with the dog the ultimate loser. ■

Lee Livingood is a CG regular contributor and the author of Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies.



Katie Gillespie visited EJ's Douglas at the Hall of Fame. *Jon Gillespie*

EJ's Douglas, Hall of Fame Resident

By Laurel E Drew with Kathy Lazenby

EJ's Douglas was inducted into the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1999. The article that appeared in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* ("Hall of Fame Inducts Two More Greyhounds," Spring 2000 CG) shortly afterwards dwelt on his racing prowess and outstanding successes. But EJ's Douglas also had a great deal of personal charm and popularity, which he shared with many lovers of Greyhounds in his third career as a greeter at the Greyhound Hall of Fame until his death late last year.

In summer of 2002, Doug came to reside at the Greyhound Hall of Fame after a successful stud career. He is the only Greyhound Hall of

Fame inductee to have actually lived in the Hall of Fame, and people came from all over to have their picture taken with him. Adults and children alike would get down on the floor next to his king-sized cushion to have their pictures taken with him. He was quite a celebrity.

His biggest love, however, was visiting with children. Whether it was because they were just his size and could be smooched easily or because his kennel handler had a small child who visited him often, no one knows, but he did love kids.

One day, an eight-year old girl by the name of Katie Gillespie came with her father to visit Doug. Dougie had just returned from

having five teeth pulled when they walked in, and he was still feeling pretty sick but insisted on seeing her. He was supposed to be resting on his pillow in the office where he could be observed, but he came out to greet her anyway. Katie was very moved by his dignity and charm even though he was a bit wobbly.

On the way home, Katie asked her dad, John, about him and how would he eat his treats and dinner. In an effort to ease her concern, John told her that they would probably get him some dentures. A few weeks later, Katie carried a glass jar full of pennies, quarters, nickels and dimes, to her father to donate for Doug's dentures. Her father explained that they actually don't make dentures for dogs but



Kathy Lazenby visited the Hall of Fame and reunited Gina with her father, EJ's Douglas.

that she could donate them to the Greyhound Hall of Fame for soft treats for Dougie. When they made the three and a half hour return drive to the Greyhound Hall of Fame to deliver their donation, Katie handed the glass jar, filled with \$14.00 of change plus several bags of treats, to Doug. It was a very special moment for the old dog and for the staff as well.

Doug also charmed Kathy Lazenby who owned N's Sugartime (Gina), one of Doug's daughters. Kathy first met Doug in 2003 during the Abilene Gathering and reports, "I was surprised to be met by Gina's sire, EJ's Douglas, who had come to spend his retirement in the Hall into which he was inducted in 1999. I decided that next year I would take Gina along so she could meet Dougie. We arrived with Gina just in time. The dogs were already out for their last turnout before closing. They let us walk Douglas over by a statue on the grounds and take some pictures and love on him for a while. It will be a memory I will cherish forever because a couple weeks after our visit, EJ's Douglas passed. I am glad that I got to meet him and got Gina there to take some pictures. I am so very sorry that the sport and the Hall have lost such a wonderful ambassador for the breed. Whether with his speed and ability as a racer or his 'Oh no, I'm not coming off this carpet' attitude in retirement, Dougie showed the world what wonderful dogs Greyhounds are."

Kathy Lounsbury, who works at the Greyhound Hall of Fame, says, "Doug was a real charmer. When he first came to the Hall of Fame, we had to put tape on the glass of the front windows as he was very insulted by the Eisenhower squirrels that resided across the street. He couldn't understand why he couldn't get to them." (The Eisenhower Memorial Library is located across the street from the Greyhound Hall of Fame.) She also called Doug a politician, adroit at "kissing babies." He was much more attentive to children than most Hall of Fame dogs. She added, "The loss of Douglas was very difficult for all of us here

at the Hall. He was as much a part of our family as our pets at home. It cuts deep [when any of our Hall of Fame resident dogs dies], especially such a wonderful, regal dog as Douglas."

EJ's Douglas died of old age at 14. The Hall of Fame staff still misses the big brindle boy who charmed both young and old. ■

Laurel E. Drew is a CG regular contributor. Kathy Lazenby lives with Greyhounds Peggy and Gina in Livonia, Mich.



NGA Secretary Gary Guccione congratulates EJ's Douglas on his induction into the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1999, as St. Petersburg, Fla. kennel owner Charles C. Marriott and David Strickland of Strickland Sires (the farm to which EJ's Douglas retired to stud) look on. *Cecilia Harris*



Rocksteady Eddie, age 11 and a half, adopted by Rebecca Doersam of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Greyhounds in the News

Morris Animal Foundation Canine Cancer Research Update

The Morris Animal Foundation reports the following research accomplishments in 2005 related to canine cancer. The research, funded by the Morris Animal Foundation, was conducted by Dr. David M. Vail at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Autologous Tumor Cell Vaccination for the Treatment of Canine Lymphoma

Description:

Lymphoma is a common cancer in dogs, and despite advances in chemotherapy and supportive care, about 90 percent of dogs diagnosed with lymphoma will come out of remission and die due to a return of the drug-resistant cancer. In this study, investigators will test an anti-cancer vaccine in dogs with lymphoma who have gone into remission through chemotherapy. The hope is that the vaccine will prompt the dog's immune system to seek

out and kill remaining tumor cells, thereby increasing the duration of first remission.

Accomplishment:

Investigators determined that the anti-cancer vaccine was safe and that in many patients it was able to stimulate the immune system. The vaccine also prolonged overall survival in dogs with lymphoma compared with dogs that were treated with chemotherapy alone, and the study had several long-term survivors. However, the central hypothesis that the vaccine would increase remission times did not prove true, even though dogs receiving the vaccine had longer survival than dogs receiving a placebo. The investigators plan to further study the long-term survivors for clues to this phenomenon.

Early Clinical Development of a GP100 Allogeneic Tumor Cell Vaccine for Canine Melanoma

Description:

Melanoma is among the most common oral and digital (occurring on the toes) cancers in dogs. Despite aggressive surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy, 80 percent of dogs with advanced oral and digital melanoma die within eight to 10 months of treatment. The investigators are testing a novel new treatment for dogs called a "tumor vaccine." Vaccines stimulate immunity, so the investigators are creating a vaccine out of genetically modified canine melanoma cells, which they will inject into dogs with advanced melanoma. They expect the vaccine will stimulate the dog's immune system and generate anti-tumor activity.

Accomplishment:

Investigators determined that the anti-cancer vaccine was safe, and in many patients was

able to stimulate the immune system. About one-third of the dogs experienced shrinkage in cancer size or halted growth for prolonged periods of time. Antibodies were elicited in the majority of patients, however, this did not correlate in all cases with tumor shrinkage. While investigators were unable to predict which dogs tumors would shrink by doing lab tests, dogs that showed clinical response to the vaccine lived longer than those that didn't achieve a clinical response. The investigators were also able to validate a commercially available assay so that other laboratories can now use it to test the dog's immune system.

The Morris Animal Foundation is a 56-year old nonprofit organization that gives more than \$4 million annually to fund humane studies about the health and well being of companion animals. In 2004, they funded more than half a million dollars to support research into canine cancer, conducted at universities around the world. The Morris

Animal Foundation Greyhound Cancer Fund is a recipient of funds raised at Greyhounds Reach the Beach.

American Greyhound Council Allocates More than \$266,000 for Greyhound Welfare

The American Greyhound Council (AGC) board of directors approved more than \$266,000 for grants and programs to benefit Greyhound welfare, adoption, and education in FYI 2005-2006, according to AGC Communications Director Gary Guccione. The Council is a joint effort of the National Greyhound Association (NGA) and the American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA).

Guccione, who also serves as executive director of the NGA, said the largest single allocation was \$90,000 for adoption grants. In 2004-05, AGC provided 54 grants totaling more than \$84,000 to adoption organizations

around the country.

"We're absolutely delighted at how our adoption grant program has grown," said Guccione. "We started out in 1997 with \$13,250 given to 17 organizations. Since then, as more adoption organizations have looked to us for help, we've given out more than \$400,000 to dozens of groups."

The board also approved \$75,000 for the AGC's farm inspection program, which conducts unannounced inspections at Greyhound farms around the country to verify compliance with NGA animal welfare guidelines.

A grant of \$40,000 was approved for Greyhound Pets of America (GPA), the national's largest independent adoption organization, to assist the group in establishing new chapters in geographic areas currently underserved by adoption organizations.

For more information on receiving a grant, visit www.agcouncil.com.

Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine News

Will Shumaker's photograph of his 12 and-a-half year-old Greyhound, Snip, is the winner of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine's* Fall 2005 Cover Dog Search. We received hundreds of entries of beautiful Greyhounds who were all over ten years of age. Many entrants also enclosed letter describing their special senior Greyhounds. Seeing all of these beautiful, well-loved grey faces was truly inspiring, and we are pleased to share many of these images in the pages of this issue of CG.

While all of the photographs are wonderful — and Will's photograph of sleepy Snip especially so — there were three additional photographs that received an Honorable Mention in our Cover Dog Search. Marge Bazsika's photograph of 12-year-old Jacqueline, Cherie Damron's photograph of 10-year-old Grumpy, and another of Will Shumaker's images of Snip were pretty terrific, too. They appear in this issue on the back cover, page 2, and page 4, respectively.

Dr. William E. Feeman III, DVM has joined the staff of *CG Magazine* as a regular contributor. His first article for our Exploring Medicine column, "Advances in Dental Care," appears in this issue. John Parker has also joined the staff of *CG* as our legal advisor. Welcome! ■



Gracie, age 10 and a half, adopted by Karen Lee and Terri Jacobson of Salem, Ore.



Although Greyhounds enjoy playtime, vigorous activity could be fatal to a dog recovering from heartworm disease. Windsong (age 11) and Fabulous Bo (age 10), adopted by Sarah P. Jones of Cocoa, Fla.

The Heartbreak of Heartworm

By Dr. Jim Bader

Hearthworm disease is a devastating affliction. It is also easily preventable. Though treatable, the treatment itself can have serious side effects. Dogs who have been treated for heartworms may later develop congestive heart failure secondary to the damage from the heartworms years earlier. This article describes heartworm disease and its treatments.

Heartworms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) live in the right side of the dog's heart. The adult heartworm produces offspring called microfilaria. The microfilaria circulate through the blood, and when an infected dog is bitten by a mosquito, the microfilaria are ingested with the blood meal. The microfilaria develop in the mosquito. When the mosquito obtains another blood meal, the microfilaria crawl into the wound of the bitten animal. In affected animals, the microfilaria migrate through the tis-

sue (the stage during which heartworm prevention kills the microfilaria) and enter the right side of the heart, where they develop into adult heartworms. Most dogs are not affected with just one heartworm; they have between ten and 20, and some can have more than 50 worms. This is where the damage to the heart occurs.

The heartworms living in the right side of the heart make it more difficult for the heart to pump the blood. The heartworms interfere with blood flow by clogging the valves, disturbing flows, and increasing pressure in the heart. The heart responds by working harder to maintain blood flow, which causes enlargement of the heart and blood vessels. The enlargement of the vessels may cause increased blood pressure in the lungs, leading to secondary lung damage, or pooling of the blood in the liver, causing secondary liver

damage. These changes are reversible if diagnosed early in the disease.

Since the heart is working harder, it enlarges like any other muscle. When the heart enlarges, however, it does not become stronger as other muscles do; it actually grows weaker. All these changes later in the disease may not be reversible and can lead to other conditions such as congestive heart failure or liver failure. This is why prevention is so important and early detection critical.

Heartworm Test

The occult test for heartworm disease requires one to two drops of the dog's blood. The occult test detects adult heartworms rather than microfilaria. It can be performed in the veterinarian's office, and results are available in about 5 minutes. It is an accurate test.

To detect microfilaria, a filter test is used. There is, however, another parasite that produces microfilaria: the kidney worm (*Dipdelanemia reconditum*). This worm lives in the fat around the dog's kidneys but has no known pathology. To rule out the presence of the kidney worm, any dog who tests positive for microfilaria should have a follow-up occult test, or the veterinarian should send a blood sample to a diagnostic lab to have the microfilaria identified.

Once diagnosed, the veterinarian evaluates the dog to determine how far the disease has progressed. A thoracic radiograph helps detect heart or vessel enlargement, or secondary lung damage. In addition, a cardiac ultrasound can detect changes in blood flow, how well the heart is contracting, and any subtle damage that may not be evident on the radiograph. Finally, lab work screens for anemia, or kidney or liver damage.

These diagnostic tests help the veterinarian determine the severity of heartworm infection. Class 1 is no or mild clinical signs of heartworm disease; Class 2 is moderate clinical and radiographic abnormalities; Class 3 is severe clinical signs with congestive heart failure; and Class 4 is post-caval syndrome.

Treatment

Once the class of heartworm disease is determined, treatment can begin. Immiticide is the medication of choice. This arsenic-based drug is highly effective in killing adult heartworms. Two different protocols are outlined for Immiticide therapy.

Immiticide delivers low doses of arsenic throughout the body to kill the heartworms slowly without being toxic to the Greyhound. It is critical that the heartworms are killed slowly. After the heartworms die, they travel through the blood vessels to the lungs where they are reabsorbed by the body. If too many heartworms go to the lungs at one time, a thromboembolic crisis (essentially a stroke in the lungs) occurs. This condition is described later in treatment complications.

For Class 1 and mild to moderate Class 2 cases, two injections of Immiticide 24 hours apart are indicated. Following treatment, the dog must have strict rest. Aspirin is given to reduce scarring in the lungs, and if the dog

becomes severely painful due to the Immiticide injections, steroids may be given as well.

Moderate Class 2 and all Class 3 cases are very different. These Greyhounds are sick from their heartworm burden and must be treated slowly and carefully. The veterinarian must be careful to kill the heartworms slowly, not causing too many worms to enter the lungs at one time. First, strict confinement is essential for 45 to 60 days. This means the dog goes for a leash walk two to three times a day and otherwise has strict kennel confinement. There is no outside time alone, no off-leash time, and no playtime. This may seem excessive but one thromboembolic crisis could end the dog's life. The Greyhound is treated with one dose of Immiticide. This kills about 50 percent of the heartworms. The Greyhound continues his strict rest, and then is treated 30 days later with two doses of Immiticide. This kills the remaining 50 percent. During this treatment the Greyhound should receive aspirin and steroids for relief of inflammation. Sixty days following the initial injection, the laboratory work and radiographs are repeated to evaluate changes in the organs before the Greyhound can gradually return to exercise and a normal life.

Class 4 patients require immediate emergency care. A dog with Class 4 infection has collapsed and is in shock. Surgical removal of the heartworms is the only treatment option, and the prognosis is poor to grave.

Treatment Complications

The most common and life-threatening complication of heartworm treatment is the thromboembolic crisis. This occurs when too many heartworms die at the same time, travel to the lungs, and cause a severe disturbance in blood flow to the lungs. Any or all of the lung lobes may be involved. The more severe the involvement, the greater the chance of death. This occurs if the owner does not adequately confine the dog after treatment or if initial testing fails to indicate the severity of the disease. When a crisis occurs, it is an emergency situation. The veterinarian performs a chest X-ray to determine the extent of the crisis, then administers intravenous fluids, steroids, and oxygen. Once the crisis is past, the caretaking and medical notes should be reviewed

and perhaps a change in plan implemented. If the Greyhound survives one crisis, he may not survive the next.

Once the critical 30 to 60 days following the first Immiticide therapy have passed, the Greyhound is treated to remove the microfilaria. This is done using either ivermectin or milbemycin at doses higher than those in monthly heartworm prevention tablets. These are very effective in removing the microfilaria from the circulation, and few dogs have side effects. If the dog has a severe microfilaria burden, he may feel lethargic for a day or two. If this happens, the veterinarian might administer a short-acting steroid to reduce the side effects. The Greyhound is then placed on monthly heartworm prevention four to six weeks following Immiticide therapy.

Four months after the two injections of Immiticide, the veterinarian performs another occult heartworm test. If it is positive, the dog is retested monthly for three more months. Ninety percent of dogs will be negative 6 months following Immiticide therapy. If the Greyhound is still positive, the two doses of Immiticide therapy might need to be repeated.

Dogs can be protected from heartworm infection with the administration of a monthly preventative tablet. All dogs are at risk because of travel through endemic and non-endemic areas. If infected, successful treatment is based on staging the Greyhound and then instituting the proper therapy. To minimize the possibility of complications, strict rest is critical.

A Galgo I brought back from Spain in 2001 had severe Class 2 or mild Class 3 heartworm disease. Spain is not endemic for heartworm disease, but three tests (one in the clinic and two from outside labs) confirmed the disease. He lived at my office for 75 days, underwent the two-step treatment, and experienced no complications. The strict rest was critical to the success of his treatment. He now runs in my yard, plays with my other Greyhounds, and attends talks at schools and classes. Without the proper treatment he would not be with me today. ■

Dr. Jim Bader is a CG regular contributor.

HEARTWORMS KILLED RILEY



1998-2005

**One "HOT" Mosquito Bite
Can Kill YOUR Dog Too.**

See Your Vet:

Get Tested - Get Protected

Then RILEY will not have died in vain.

Greyhound Friends of Northern California

GFNC's heartworm prevention poster is available upon request to gfnf@saber.net.

Riley's Story

By Kris Burkel

Riley was a big, light fawn, 7-year-old Greyhound. He was surrendered by his owners upon the request of two of our Greyhound Friends of Northern California members when they visited his family in early December 2004.

Riley came to us with multiple health problems. He was underweight. His tail resembled a thin, tattered rope. He had a rotten mouth. He had a thick, fuzzy coat due to living outside. He was infested with fleas. Worst of all, he was heartworm positive. His was a long-standing case where the adult heartworms were freely producing offspring into his bloodstream. Apparently, his owner had not administered heartworm preventative.

We knew immediately that we must work very hard to restore Riley to good health and that the cost to do so would be staggering. An S.O.S. to the Greyhound list on the Internet and other Greyhound circles produced generous contributions to Riley's rehabilitation fund exceeding \$2,700 from 13 states and Canada.

We asked Dr. Debbie Fox of Valley Veterinary Clinic in Red Bluff, California to be Riley's physician. X-rays and lab tests indicated that we could probably safely tackle Riley's dental problems first. We then proceeded with Riley's heartworm treatment, which required two days of Immiticide injections to kill off the adult heartworms. After a few weeks of strict confinement, he received a follow-up treatment with Filaricide to clear him of the immature forms of the heartworm.

Riley survived two closely spaced crises between the Immiticide and the Filaricide treatments. X-rays showed that blood circulation to a small portion of one lung was being blocked by the disintegrating heartworms. Immediate and expert care by Dr. Fox and Dr. Terri Hill got Riley through these crises.

During Riley's convalescence, we posted weekly updates and photos to the Internet. Riley's supporters eagerly awaited news of his mostly steady improvement in health and overall condition. In late February 2005, it looked like Riley was past the worst of his treatments. He appeared to be headed toward a healthy and happy future life.

During Riley's convalescence, he was fostered by a wonderful family. They supervised him closely and greatly restricted his activities according to doctor's orders. Due to the family members' individual schedules, Riley was seldom without humans on-site to monitor him. He received all of his medications and special-diet meals on schedule. The family transported him 65 miles round-trip to the veterinary clinic for treatments and checkups as required.

On the evening of Friday, February 25, all the foster family members were gone for the evening. Riley apparently got loose in the house and escaped through the dog door, across the fenced deck, and through the gate into the large back yard. When his family returned home later that evening, they found his lifeless body in the yard.

Riley must have taken one last gleeful run in the yard with his Greyhound buddy Sherman. The stress of his run mostly likely caused the disintegrating heartworms in his heart to break loose in clumps large enough to block the blood circulation to his heart, lungs, or brain. His death was most likely immediate.

If there is anything to be gained by Riley's untimely death, it is the undeniable realization that heartworms are no joke. They can be acquired by one "hot" mosquito bite anywhere, and the treatment for a live case of heartworms does not always result in survival of the infected dog.

Greyhound Friends of Northern California has designed a heartworm prevention poster for distribution to veterinary hospitals, rescue groups, animal shelters, dog training classes, grooming shops, and to dog owners in general. It is available online in Microsoft Word format upon request to gfnf@saber.net. We ask members of the Greyhound community to publish and distribute this poster to help educate dog owners about the heartbreaking consequences of heartworm infection. ■

Kris Burkel volunteers for Greyhound Friends of Northern California.

Greyhound owners proclaim their love for their pets in endless ways — carrying business cards for their favorite adoption group, wearing Greyhound jewelry or t-shirts promoting adoption, slapping bumper stickers on their vehicles, and so forth. A few very brave folks choose a more permanent form of communication: tattoos. In 2004, Kathy Johnson and Feathered Gems Jewelry sponsored the first annual Greyhound tattoo photo contest at Greyhounds Reach the Beach. Proceeds from entry and voting fees benefited the Morris Animal Foundation. The contest was such a success that Feathered Gems is sponsoring it again in 2005; visit www.featheredgems.com/tattoo_contest_2005.htm for details.

Kathy Lazenby of Livonia, Mich. won the contest in 2004. Her tattoo, and those of some of the other contestants, are featured here. ■

Greyhound Body Art



Karen Marcellinas, Danbury, Conn.



David Sorber, Keyport, N.J.



Carla Trottier, Billerica, Mass.



Kathy Lazenby, Livonia, Mich.



Jay Keegan, Washington, D.C.



Linda Hendrix, Lynnwood, Wash. Tattoo designed by Sarah Regan Snavelly.



Valerie Hunter-Goss, Fort Collins, Colo. Tattoo designed by Suzanne, Millenium Gallery of Living Art, Fort Collins, Colo.



Connie Faldzinski, Vernon, N.Y. Tattoo design courtesy of Northcoast Greyhound Support.



Scott Lambert, Rohnert Park, Calif.



Carol Sheldon, Gilbert, Ariz.



Katie came to the rescue of her Greyhound friend, Jitterbug. *Michael Nemetch*

Katie Saves Jitterbug

By Michael Nemetch

One never knows what a person or animal is capable of until one is faced with adversity. Such is the case with my hero hound Katie.

I take my dogs for a walk around the neighborhood every day, weather permitting. There are a few blocks that Katie prefers to avoid because of unpleasant experiences in the past. One day, a Dalmatian got outside of her fence and approached us, though with no malicious intent. Nonetheless, Katie is afraid to go past her house. On another occasion, a Scottish Terrier got out of his yard and came running toward us with great gusto. Katie was so frightened that she did what looked like a double backflip, backed out of her martingale collar, and was gone in a flash. She came running back only after the Terrier's owner came and retrieved him.

There is one house a block away from mine where a Chocolate Lab and a Pit Bull

reside. We have walked past this house countless times. The two dogs always whine at us as we pass by.

One day, I was walking my Greyhounds, Katie and Jitterbug, past this house. Suddenly, Lilu the Pit Bull pushed her way underneath the chain link fence. Lilu's owner was sitting in the yard, oblivious to Lilu's escape until Lilu was upon us.

A major scuffle ensued. Lilu clamped his jaws around Jitterbug's head and neck. No amount of hollering, punching, or kicking could get her to release him. I really thought Lilu was going to kill Jitterbug.

Katie managed to wiggle out of her collar and went after Lilu with an attitude. She barked, growled, and nipped at Lilu. All of a sudden, Lilu let go of Jitterbug and started chasing Katie down the street. It took Lilu only a few seconds to realize that she could not catch Katie, so she turned around and

came back. Lilu's owner was then able to get her back inside the yard.

Jitterbug spent most of the evening at the emergency clinic. He received numerous stitches and a drain in his neck. I had to get a tetanus shot the next day for bite wounds on my finger. Katie had only a few abrasions on her rear foot.

Our walks are longer now, because there is one more house in the neighborhood that we tend to avoid. ■

Michael Nemetch lives with Greyhounds Katie, Jitterbug, and Kay in Hampton, Va. He volunteers with the National Greyhound Adoption Program, Eastern Virginia chapter.



Flake, age 11 and a half, adopted by Sheila Armel of Columbia, Va.

Caring for your Aging Greyhound

By Rodger Barr, DVM

Caring for and managing the aging Greyhound is an honor and a privilege. Returning the favor for the no-strings-attached devotion you have received from this noble creature is very rewarding. Advances in nutrition and medicine now give us the opportunity to lead our loving companions into their latter years with dignity and comfort. My goal in presenting this article is to offer a common sense approach to some of the likely conditions you will face with your older Greyhounds, and to provide you with the knowledge necessary to minimize illness and reach solutions rapidly and efficiently.

When your Greyhound becomes ill, being precise with your description of the problem is

critical. Nothing that an aging Greyhound does or fails to do should be ignored when you give a complete history to your veterinarian. Any change in behavior or routine can be the key to the mystery, and assist in the ultimate diagnosis. Failure to mention that one seemingly unimportant fact may result in the loss of a beloved pet. If that small detail were known, the puzzle may be solved, and the Greyhound could go on happily for some time.

The question is often asked: "Now that my wonderful pet has reached the golden years, what should I be doing differently than when he or she was younger?" In my view, the most important change is to curtail the running immediately. Greyhounds are bred to run, but they do not have to run to be happy. Dogs do

not always know what is best for them; that's your job. Allowing an older Greyhound to run is courting disaster. If you've owned an older Greyhound now or in the past, allowed running, and had no problems, you've been lucky. Eventually this practice will catch up with you, and your Greyhound will suffer.

Weight — too little or too much — is often an issue with the aging Greyhound. As they age, many Greyhounds tend to lose weight for a variety of reasons. When this trend is recognized — and it is easy to see on a short-haired dog — the problem should be evaluated. Blood chemistries, fecal exams, and x-rays are some of the exams that may help pinpoint the cause of weight loss in a Greyhound. Just as it is important to avoid

weight loss, it is also important to avoid excessive weight, especially with advancing age. Rear leg weakness and an inability to get around comfortably is the fate of all older Greyhounds if they live long enough. When excessive weight is factored into the equation, deterioration tends to accelerate. Rear leg weakness is second only to cancer as the most common cause of euthanasia in Greyhounds. Prevention is the key to longevity. When a Greyhound reaches 10 years of age, it is wise to do blood chemistry profiles at least every 6 months. If problems are detected, those tests may need to be repeated even more frequently. In this day of dramatic advances in medicine, diet, and technology, many known conditions that previously would have resulted in the loss of a loved one may respond to a diet change, a tablet, or an injection.

Diet in the elderly Greyhound is a controversial subject. I believe in maintaining an animal's normal diet unless a problem develops that requires dietary adjustment. I do not routinely recommend that owners switch to a low protein senior diet just because a dog celebrates another birthday. Use a quality food that minimizes byproducts and maximizes palatability. Stools should be firm, and your pet should look good on the chosen diet. Fur

should be shiny and slick. Energy levels should be appropriate for the dog's age and breed, although this can be hard to evaluate in many of our laid-back couch potatoes.

Proper dental care leads to more than just sweet breath; it promotes excellent health and a long life. The greatest flaw in the retired racing Greyhound, for a variety of reasons, is their propensity for severe dental disease. These foul mouths can lead to damage of the heart, kidney, and other organs. The amount of bacteria coursing through the blood of a Greyhound with a diseased mouth is mind-boggling. And the source of this disease is completely avoidable. If you brush your Greyhound's teeth daily, your pet will need very little professional care when it comes to oral health. Proper daily brushing will allow you to avoid the risks of anesthesia — which increase as your pet ages — and keep your pet happy and healthy.

It is not unusual for aging animals to require surgical procedures, both major and minor. When it comes to planning these procedures, the order of the day is do no harm. Some risks are unavoidable regardless of age, but the primary goal is to manage all situations in such a manner as to minimize these risks. Many procedures on the geriatric hound can

be performed without general anesthesia, which is to be avoided in the aging hound. A local anesthetic and manual restraint are often sufficient for laceration repairs, removal of certain skin tumors, some eye procedures, and so on. When anesthesia is necessary, preliminary blood work, intravenous fluids, and proper monitoring equipment are essential to ensure a successful procedure.

With aging comes reduced rear leg function in the mature Greyhound. Pain or weakness in the rear, knuckling of the rear feet while standing or walking, stumbling on surfaces that never before presented a problem, urinary and fecal incontinence; all are symptoms of lumbosacral stenosis. When Greyhounds are diagnosed with this condition, it is often necessary to alter their routines; no more walks with the other dogs. Exercise should be abbreviated, preferably on soft grassy surfaces. Small adjustments can make a huge difference, and allow a good life to continue. One of the many NSAIDS pain relievers such as Rimadyl® (carprofen), Deramaxx® (deracoxib), or Previcox® (firocoxib) can help. Injections of corticosteroids into the lumbosacral space may also provide some prolonged relief for advanced or refractory cases. Despite the need to alter your pet's routine, all parties can be happy and enjoy life with modifications.

No discussion of the geriatric Greyhound would be complete without the mention of bone cancer. Any unexplained lameness in any Greyhound should be evaluated. If the lameness is in an older dog, cancer is always one of the primary considerations. Prompt evaluation is highly recommended. All options benefit from early diagnosis.

Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) is a form of senility that usually starts out very slowly. It can be as subtle as changes in sleeping habits or greeting patterns, forgetting on which side the door opens or where to urinate or defecate, and general confusion. If your veterinarian suspects your Greyhound has CDS is suspected, he will ask you to complete a survey. Analysis of the survey results by a trained professional will indicate whether your older dog is exhibiting symptoms of CDS. If he is, Anipryl® is often an effective treatment. The drug should be administered each morning, and can result in an increase in appetite and



Raspberry, age 10, adopted by Kate Brodeur of Monson, Mass.

or hyperactivity. I have rarely seen any side effects from Anipryl®. Improvement in the pet's condition is often evident within seven to 14 days, with maximum results taking as long as three months.

The use of nutritional supplements has gotten a lot of print lately thanks to baby boomers looking to prolong their youth. These products may help your Greyhound, and certainly don't appear to cause any harm; what have you got to lose? Antioxidants, which support the immune system, and glucosamine/chondroitin supplements, which fight arthritis by promoting healthy cartilage (see "Joint Supplements," Spring 2004 CG) may improve your Greyhound's quality of life and appear to be harmless at the very worst.

Managing the medical issues of your aging Greyhound can be gratifying and challenging.

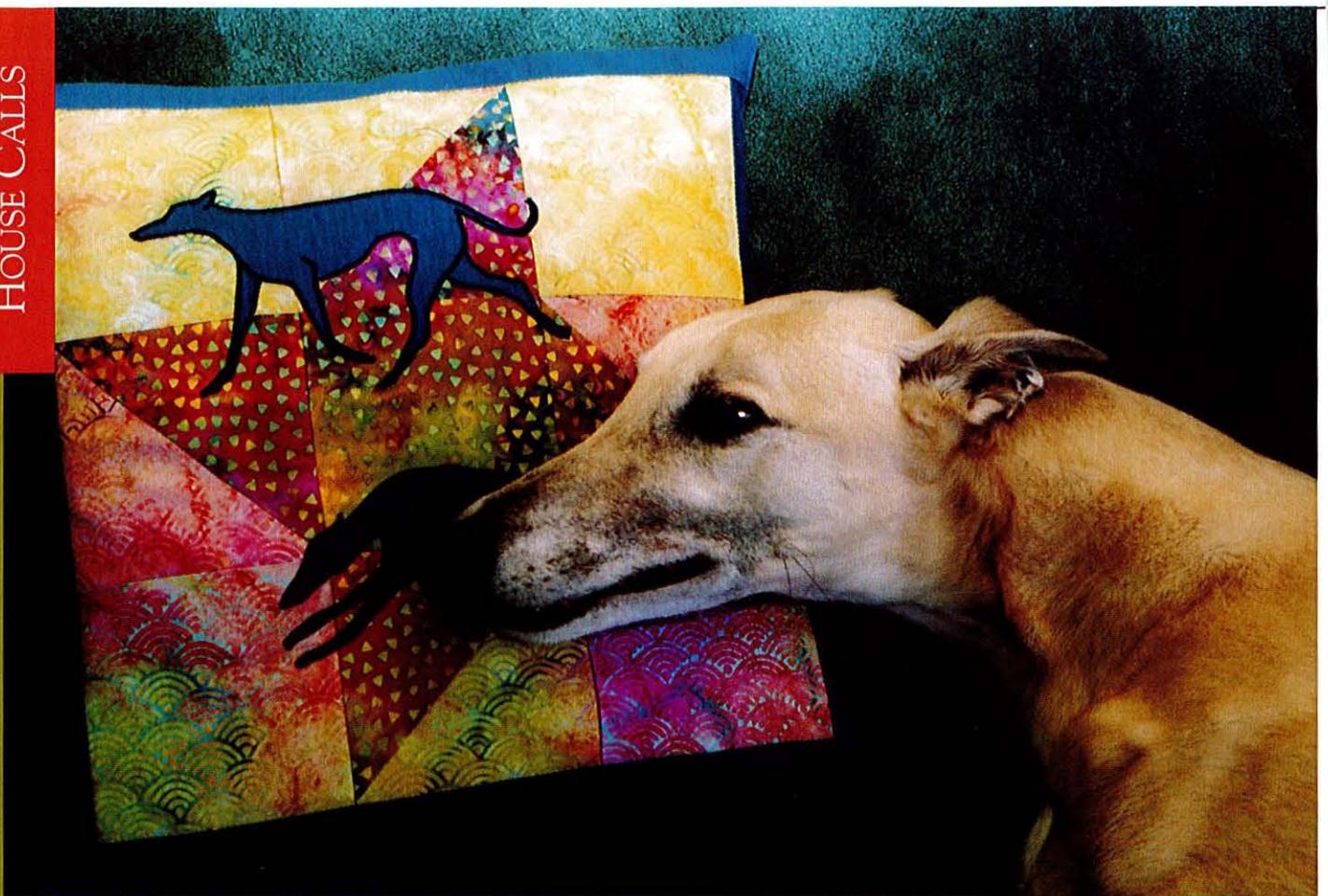
A useful tip for coping with the challenge is to be aware of your old dog's shortcomings and adjust your expectations accordingly. Know that what was normal only a few months ago is likely to be impossible today. If stairs have evolved from a simple daily task to an obstacle, get a baby gate and make certain that when stairs are to be attempted you are there to assist. Learn to zig when your dog zags. Make the best of the situation and enjoy the pleasures of the unconditional love we all seek. Reacting to your Greyhound's twilight years in this fashion is undoubtedly more pleasant and enjoyable than living in the past, regretting the present, and dreading the future. ■

Rodger Barr graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in

1975, and began his love affair with Greyhounds the same year. He has presented seminars to breeders and veterinarians on the subject of sighthounds and their medical and surgical peculiarities since the late 1970s. He placed his first Greyhound in 1976 and has been active in Greyhound adoption ever since through GPA (as a member of their original Board of Directors) and most recently through Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption (as founder and current president). He has bred, owned, trained, and raced Greyhounds for over 25 years, and has tried to show the racing industry by example the correct way to manage the Greyhound retirement issue. He is the founder of Foley Boulevard Animal Hospital and has been caring for Greyhounds for over 25 years. He lives in Hudson, Wisc. with his wife Donna, who adopted that first Greyhound he placed in 1976.



Bonnie, age 12, adopted by Mike and Joanne Bast of Edgewater, Md.



Gold Dust enjoys his special pillow.

Quilted Greyhound Pillow

By Eileen Doughty

Greyhounds are known as couch potatoes and will take up as much of the couch as allowed — moving over just enough for someone to pet them. Here are instructions for making a Greyhound pillow. It can take the place of your dog when she is in non-potato mode, or provide a place for your dog to rest her beautiful head. Or maybe even a human could use it.

Materials needed:

Cotton woven fabrics work best- do not use knits.

- 1/4 yard for star
- 1/4 yard for background
- 1/2 yard for accents (Greyhound silhouettes, border) and backing
- 14" square pillow insert
- 1/8 yard fusible web
- Threads for sewing and quilting

Cutting Instructions:

1. Cut from star fabric:
 - 1 square, measuring 4-1/2" on each side
 - 2 squares, measuring 4-7/8", then cut each of these into 2 triangles
2. Cut from background fabric:
 - 4 squares, measuring 4-1/2" on each side
 - 2 squares, measuring 4-7/8", then cut each of these into 2 triangles
3. Cut from accent fabric:
 - 4 rectangles, measuring 2" x 15" (for borders)
 - 2 rectangles, measuring 15" x 10-1/2" (for backing)



The backing is made in two pieces for ease of inserting and removing the pillow form for washing.

Sewing Instructions:

1. Use a 1/4" seam allowance unless specified otherwise.

2. Place the right sides of one of the star triangles and one of the background triangles together and sew on the diagonal edge.

Repeat for other triangles. (Note: backstitching is not necessary for piecing.)

Press the seam towards the darker fabric. (See Diagram 1.)

Trim the "dog ears" (a convenient technical term) of fabric at the corners of the seams.

3. Join the squares and triangle units into three rows (see Diagram 2). Press seams toward the square, away from triangles.

4. Join the three rows together (see Diagram 3). The block should measure 12-1/2" square (including seam allowances).

5. Sew a border rectangle to the block.

Press the seam towards the border.

Trim ends of the border rectangle even with the block.

Repeat at the opposite side of the block, and then for the remaining two sides (see Diagram 4).

6. Trace Greyhound silhouettes onto paper side of fusible web.

Fuse the web to the fabric by following the manufacturer's instructions.

Cut out the silhouettes, peel off the paper backing, and fuse onto the block, referring to the color picture for placement.

7. Sew around the silhouettes with a narrow satin stitch.

Note: Sew small leg areas first, next sew around body as a continuous line.

8. On one long side of a backing rectangle, turn under 1/4" and press.

Fold under 1/4" again, press, and stitch the folded edge.

This makes a narrow hem.

Repeat for the other backing piece.

9. Lay the pillow right side up.

Place one backing piece over it, right side

down, upper edges even.

Place the other backing piece even with the bottom.

Note: The backing pieces overlap for several inches.

Pin around edges through all layers.

Sew around pillow, 1/2" from outer edge.

Trim corners to reduce bulk.

Optional: Finish raw edges to prevent fraying by either zigzagging the raw edges or using pinking shears.

Turn pillow right side out and press.

Insert pillow form.

10. Insert the finished pillow under your dog's head and admire your work! ■

Eileen Doughty and family adopted Greyhound Gold Dust five years ago, and volunteers for Greyhound Rescue, Inc. of Md., Va., and Washington, DC. She has been creating commissioned landscape fabric art quilts for nearly fifteen years from her home in Vienna, Va. More of her work may be seen at www.DoughtyDesigns.com.

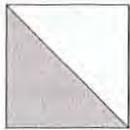


Diagram 1

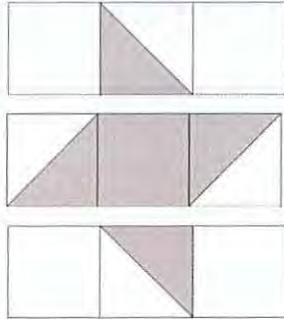


Diagram 2

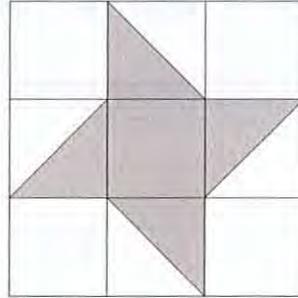


Diagram 3

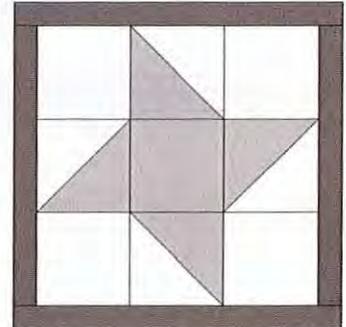
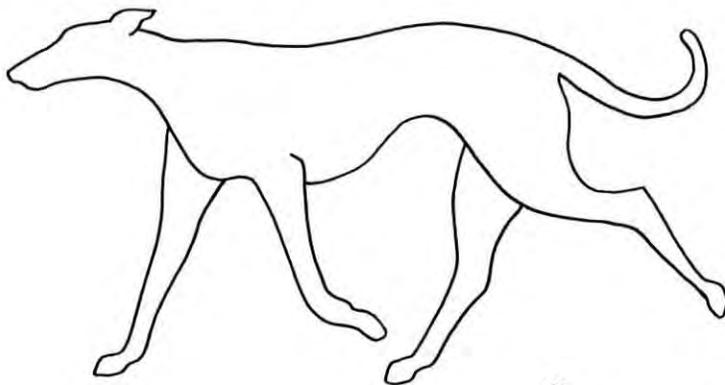
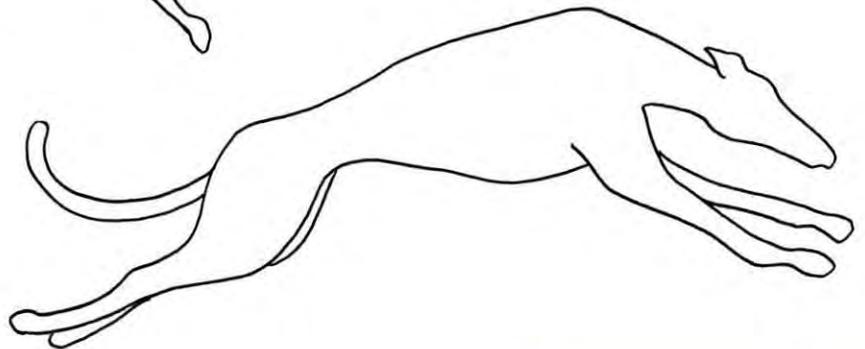


Diagram 4



Greyhound silhouettes can be enlarged and traced.





Honey, age 11, adopted by Amy Johnston of Calgary, Alberta

The Oldest Old: Living with Your Very Old Greyhound

By Mary Bauer, with Donna and Rodger Barr, and Egon Bauer

She reclines comfortably in her bed and listens to your voice. You talk softly to her and she seems to take comfort in that familiar, soothing sound. She looks up at you. Her beautiful brown eyes are cloudy now, but they still express the love she feels. You get a little teary; you remember how she used to be. But this is today. Perhaps you offer her something to drink — a sip of water. . . or something to eat — maybe one of her favorite cookies. You ask her if she needs to relieve herself. You know that she is not always able to take care of such things in time and that resulting accidents embarrass her terribly. You try very hard to help maintain her dignity. When her eyes begin to close, you know it is time to let her rest. You

walk away. You have things to do, but you are ever mindful, ever watchful, and you check on her many times that afternoon. She is breathing and relaxed, all is well today.

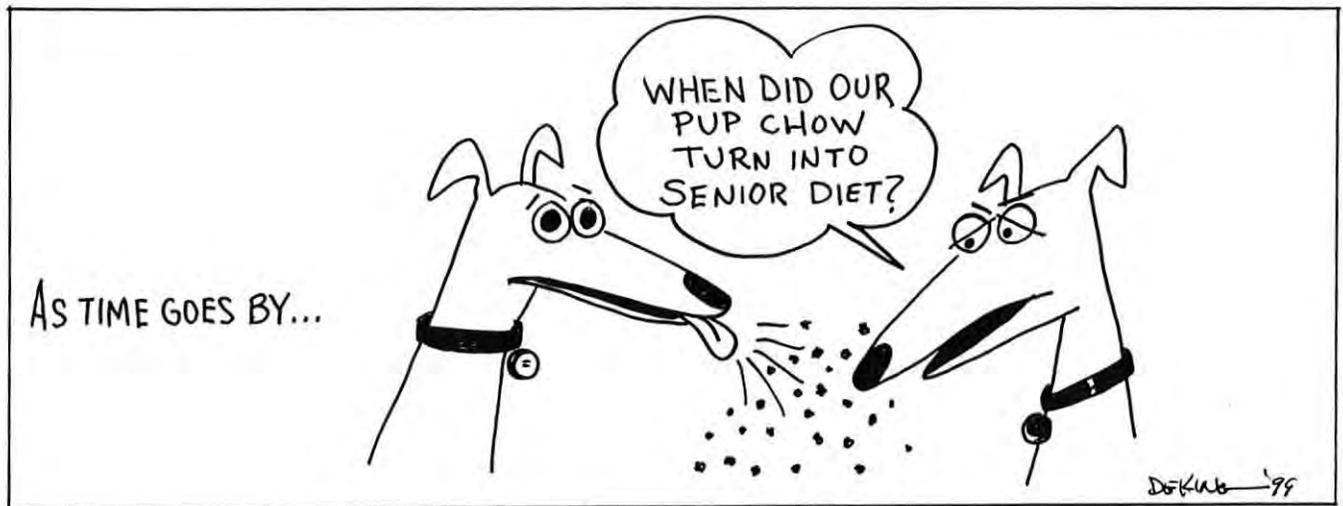
No, you are not visiting an elderly relative in a skilled nursing facility or assisted living residence. You are watching over your very old Greyhound and she is living out her days in your home and under your care.

At what age does your Greyhound become very old? While definitions about old age can be arbitrary, most owners consider their dogs to be senior by age 9 or 10. Certainly, a Greyhound who is 14 or older is very old!

You may have noticed subtle changes in your senior Greyhound over the years;

decreased appetite, less able to tolerate extreme temperatures, less active and graceful, more frequent need to eliminate or elimination problems, even differences in personality and appearance. Such age-related changes are magnified in your very old dog. Moreover, medical conditions associated with old age can affect your Greyhound in very late life.

Some Greyhounds develop finicky appetites as they age. Around age 14, Katie and Bingo became bored with the food they had previously eaten with gusto. As a result, we continually looked for the 'flavor of the week.' Without being foolish, we became less concerned about food quality: The very best products will not provide nourishment if left uneaten. At the same time, we were careful



not to upset their aging digestive systems. We solved this paradox by becoming creative; adding garnishes, bits of hotdog or cheese, to jazz up their bowls, and presenting chunks of canned dog food as treats. We tried to keep a variety of food available. Like very old people, very old Greyhounds can become thin and frail so it is important to keep them eating.

In general, Greyhounds do not tolerate temperature extremes well. Our very old dogs will feel the cold even more now. In their younger years, some would never allow any sort of cover touching them while they rested. In later years, they might willingly accept a light blanket to help their old bones feel cozy. Heat, even mildly warm temperatures, and cold mean that walks are short – maybe only half a city block and back. Day-to-day abilities for a 14-plus-year-old Greyhound are difficult to predict. More than once we misjudged and one of us carried Katie back home.

Arthritis and Lumbosacral Stenosis (LS) are common Greyhound ailments that cause weakness in the rear end. Even with appropriate supplements or other veterinary interventions, you may notice your senior Greyhounds not wanting to romp in the yard as much as when they were younger. In most cases, these changes are gradual and you have already limited the amount and type of exercise to help prevent injury. Perhaps, you have even started encouraging your Greyhound to use a ramp or to tolerate being lifted.

Rear end weakness brings several problems for our very old Greyhounds. A weak back end may mean that he is no longer able to get onto the bed or sofa. We felt sad when Bingo

stopped using his favorite couch. We bought him one of those comfortable-looking mattress-type dog beds but, at only 6 or 8 inches, it was still too high for him. Very old Greyhounds may also be unable to stand long enough to eat a full meal. It broke our hearts to see Bingo's back-end cave in as he was eating. After a time, he allowed me to hold him up so he could finish. Frequently, these very old dogs need a boost to get up from their beds as well. A weak back-end also means that your very old Greyhound may be unable to squat long enough to eliminate. Many times Bingo fell backwards into his feces and we were faced with a major cleaning task and an unhappy dog. We learned to watch carefully and step in with rear end support. Similarly, and also as a result of LS, 15 and-a-half year old Whisper occasionally needed support with a towel sling to get the job done and her walks were abbreviated to a soft, grassy area nearby.

Relevant to the topic of elimination, accidents and incontinence become real issues for our very old Greyhounds. Certain medications can help, but they are not always successful or you may be advised not to use them. In any case, it's a good idea to be prepared to adjust your schedules so you are not away from home for too long a time. At 14 and a half, Whisper suddenly began wetting her bed. The solution for her was to go to work with the Bars where she had the opportunity to go out often. At the same age, Bingo developed a different type of incontinence. We watched for his tail to twitch and extend. When it did, we were able to hurry him outside. We were successful about 75 percent of the time. It's good

to be aware of your dog's physical rhythms.

Very old Greyhounds can also experience psychological changes. For example, altered routines will probably be difficult for them to accept. Compared to when they were younger, our older dogs need longer to adapt to new situations. More than ever, they enjoy the peace and trust the status quo provides. Although our very old dogs seemed to become somewhat bewildered at times of change, we also found them more willing to accept comfort. Your very old Greyhound may become especially dependent on one, favorite individual and frequently look to that person for solace. That individual need not be a human being, however. After we lost one of the three Greyhounds in our home at the time, Katie coped with the new family structure by appointing Bingo her champion. Psychological changes may also include increased nervousness and agitation around loud sounds and commotion. As they became very old, we noticed that our Greyhounds' startle reflex grew to be much more acute. Perhaps Katie's slight hearing loss helped her into a sounder sleep and sudden return to consciousness frightened her.

Implicit in the term, senility (or more correctly stated, cognitive impairment) is considered to be a disorder of the elderly. Similarly, Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS) is a condition that sometimes affects old dogs. CDS manifests with symptoms such as inappropriate elimination, staring into space, confusion either in the yard or the house, failure to recognize familiar faces, or lack of response to familiar names or verbal cues. At age 12,

Whisper began exhibiting signs of CDS. Whisper loved her walks, but during this time, she would stand in the driveway and refuse to continue. She would just stare into space. She also began licking her front legs for no obvious reason. Whisper was always a very vocal dog and would carry on frequent conversations. With CDS, this characteristic ceased abruptly. Whisper benefited from Anipryl[®] therapy and continued on the drug for the rest of her life. With very old dogs, as is the case with older people, extreme confusion, as opposed to occasional uncertainty, is a symptom of disease. Even though old age is a risk factor for CDS, it is not a part of normal aging.

Very old dogs are at risk for another condition known as Old Dog Vestibular Syndrome. There is no known cause and there is no recommended treatment except to manage the symptoms. Whisper showed classic signs of Old Dog Vestibular Syndrome when, at age 14, she awoke one morning unable to stand or walk. With assistance she was able to stand – albeit unstable and confused. She developed a head tilt and her eyes darted uncontrollably back and forth. She was nauseated and occasionally vomited. Her appetite was poor, so her food was prepared tastier and easier to eat. Each day she improved slightly. After two weeks she was back to normal, only to experi-

ence a relapse eight months later. Fortunately, results were also very good the second time around. Old Dog Vestibular Syndrome is a frightening condition, especially when you are unprepared for it.

Finally, you will continue to see physical changes in your very old Greyhound. His appearance will change and you will notice his graying face, limbs, and belly. If your dog has had dental problems that resulted in the removal of many teeth, his sturdy jaw line will look a little sunken. Loss of muscle mass over your Greyhound's body can leave the skin somewhat loose: skin loses elasticity with age. We noticed Katie's thighs would jiggle as she walked, especially as she lost body fat. Very old Greyhounds, particularly those with LS, will develop boney hips. Shoulders will also begin to protrude giving your dog a more fragile look overall. While never very thick, skin on the lower limbs can appear almost transparent. Very old age also means that your Greyhound's eyes will look a bit dim at times. As with older humans, lenses thicken and give your old dog's eyes a cloudy look. Indeed, a dog's appearance changes over the years, but your very old Greyhound will never lose the dignified look and sweet countenance you have loved for a lifetime.

Our very old Greyhounds represent total gratification and exasperation at any point in time: These highs and lows are often separated by mere moments. Caring for and loving your very senior dog can be stressful at times, but the ultimate goal is for you and your Greyhound to be happy, comfortable, and enjoy life. If solutions cannot be found, at least a suitable adjustment in husbandry will allow life to proceed in an acceptable manner. Little adjustments can make a huge difference for your very old dog. You will learn a lot about yourself in the process. More than anything, you will learn to cherish each day you have with your beloved friend. ■

Mary Bauer is Adoptions Editor for CG. Rodger Barr, DVM is Veterinary Advisor for CG. Donna Barr is a board member with Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption. Egon Bauer has been a friend to Greyhounds for many years.



Argus, age 12, adopted by Doug and Martha Sherman of West Chester, Pa



TwylaRose, ever present.

TwylaRose, Present Tense

By Emma Mellon

It's all present tense with TwylaRose. She is a 6-year-old, blue brindle Greyhound, and I'm a 50-year-old human who's had no experience with dogs and very little with living in the present.

Before we met, her here-and-now was the sandy oval of a Florida Greyhound racetrack. It was crates and starting boxes, turnout yards and weigh-ins. Now she sleeps on my sofa, twirls in wild, carefree circles, runs for the fun of it, and walks every day.

I had worried about being bored on those walks, but the opposite has been true. TwylaRose looks and sniffs and tastes and listens in a cascade of nows that obliterates linear time. I follow along, learning about life in the present. Now. And now. And now. I don't want to miss anything. Like that squirrel I missed on one of our first walks.

TwylaRose was nosing through a carpet of pine needles. I bent forward to pass under a low tree limb just as she sighted the squirrel. The leash went taut. She lunged off at a 45-degree angle. I grabbed on with two hands, spun off balance, and landed on my back. My arms stretched over my head to the leash. The sky through the pine needles was early morning blue and I could hear TwylaRose panting. The squirrel was gone. Bits of bird song floated on the cool air. Flipped into the present, I took it all in — body and sky, pine needles and Greyhound. Here and now. As if now mattered. As if here existed.

I tried to pay attention after that. But I learn slowly.

We'd just left the veterinarian's office. I was thinking about the bill and about my plans for the rest of the day. We walked along the storefronts toward a corner pee plot of low junipers and woodchips. As we reached the corner,

TwylaRose's head shot around the edge of a dumpster and in one second, swung back into sight with a pigeon hanging out of her mouth. This got my attention. The bird's head swayed. Blood dripped from its mouth onto the pavement. Its neck was clearly broken.

We were deep in my idea of a disaster. Thoughts and ideas can substitute for experiencing the present, which I wasn't inclined to do just then. My thoughts went like this:

I hadn't signed up for visits to the dark side of the food chain. The deal was that she would be beautiful, and I would follow along on the other end of the leash. My mother had always told me that pigeons are dirty animals. And now one was hanging from the mouth of the beautiful dog who licks my face every day. Ugh.

I stood like a stone where I had been when I first saw the bird. TwylaRose came alongside

me. She settled into a tall sit and gazed out over the parking lot and there we were: Proud, serene dog. Repulsed human. Each time she made motions with her jaw to chew at the bird, I screamed: "No TwylaRose."

I stared at the limp pigeon with Twyla's muzzle wrapped firmly around it. My heart thumped. Blood dripped. I thought some more. A real dog person would have known what to do. How long would it be before a crowd gathered? What should I do now? Meanwhile, TwylaRose sat in the present. For her, there was no problem.

Eventually the clinic receptionist heard my screams, saw what was happening, and came out with her choicest treats. TwylaRose was willing to negotiate a swap — she dropped the pigeon for a liver morsel and continued on to her next now. I trailed along, lost in the recent past.

I got better at being in the present after that. If only for self-preservation, I began opening my senses and intuition to this moment.

We were walking a path at the park just after a storm had blown through. Late afternoon spring light wrapped the park in a gauzy haze. The ground lay soft and moist. The blue in TwylaRose's coat shone as she sailed her nose through the new grass. She stopped to inspect a damp spot under one of the benches. Her head disappeared and I gave her a minute before I tugged on the leash. As she reappeared, something moved at her lips. Her eyes widened, her jaw dropped open, she lifted her face toward the sky, and a yellow butterfly fluttered from her mouth. The sulfur's wobbly escape followed the slant of TwylaRose's long neck into the haze. My greyhound stood motionless, mouth still hanging open as she watched the butterfly ascend. Then she dropped her nose into the grass and moved on. Being present can be spectacular too.

She is. I am. We are. Now and now and now and now. ■

Emma Mellon is a psychologist in private practice near Philadelphia, Pa. She usually works with at least one Greyhound in the office. You can read more about TwylaRose in "Christmas with TwylaRose" in Chicken Soup for the Soul Celebrates Dogs.



Booker (age 13) and Sahra (age 10), adopted by Ed and Deb Maxwell of Brookfield, Mass.



Gidget, age 11, adopted by Skip and Sue Sprague of Winter Harbor, Me.

Will You Still Need Me? Will You Still Feed Me?

In Praise of Senior Greyhounds as Pets

By Nancy Waddell

In our house, at least, there is no question that our hounds will be needed and fed when they're 64. How can we be so sure? Because in human years, they are already 70, 70, 84, and 91 years old. That translates into two 10-year-olds, one 12-year-old, and one 13-year-old. We're not quite referring to them yet — aloud at least — as the Grey Panthers, but truth be told, our senior Greyhounds determine our lifestyle. And to be totally honest, deferring to their needs has made our lives easier as well. To understand that last sentence, it helps to know that when our combined ages are given in

“dog years,” the human Waddells have lived a glorious 861 years!

Short of giving them yogurt on a regular basis, we have done nothing miraculous to ensure the longevity of our wonderful hounds. Three of them have grown old with us. The fourth, Sugar, joined our family when she was almost 9. Some of you may remember that we were blessed with the company of Suzi (aka Sue) who joined our family at age 15 and stayed healthy and happy with us for five more years. I know a lot of people consider 7 to be the age when Greyhounds qualify for the senior discount, but I hold out for the double digits.

Regardless of the senior Greyhound's age or circumstance, whether a brood mama, a stately stud, or a bounceback, each one has an air, a mien, an attitude very seldom seen in dogs directly from the track. This something extra is tangible. You can see it in the way they hold their heads, take a stance, walk, listen, talk, sleep, and play. They possess an elegance that youngsters — all “knees and elbows” — have to develop. They have a grace that envelops their people with wonder and appreciation. The wisdom accumulated through the years and from their circumstances is apparent in the depth and warmth

of their eyes, and they have a sense of humor that is second to none. If you don't believe me, ask anyone who shares her life with a senior Greyhound (or two or three).

What's a bounceback?

Senior Greyhounds usually come into our lives in one of three ways. The bounceback is usually an older Greyhound whose adoptive owner has returned him to the original adoption group and now needs a new, forever home.

It was almost two years ago when another member of Greyhound Friends of New Jersey and I had to pick up a bounceback in my hometown. Gin was described as a 9-year-old blue Greyhound, in good health but with incontinence issues. The family claimed they "hated to give him up" but could no longer deal with his needs due to children, work, and so forth. I went with a colleague, Patty, to get him. We didn't see a blue Greyhound in good health, that's for sure. Gin lay on a cedar bed in a patch of sunlight, and seeing his coat, the only color I could describe was rust. He looked weary, old, and infirm. Patty softly called his name. He slowly got to his feet, walked to her, and pressed his full weight into her legs and his head into her chest. As we spoke with Gin's owner, Patty stroked the old boy gently, removing fistfuls of loose reddish-brown fur. Gin pressed against her even harder.

Patty took Gin to her home to foster. His legs were weak and his teeth were deplorable, but he wagged his tail and his eyes followed her everywhere. And after three shampoos, Gin was indeed blue. After a short time, with regular exercise, nutritious food, interaction with Patty's other Greyhounds, warmth and love, and a complete veterinary workup, Gin became what we had been told he was — a healthy, mature Greyhound. And Patty never once experienced any incontinence issues with the new old boy.

Gin was placed in a loving home that he shares with a Sphynx cat and his adoring human companions. He is the first Greyhound in his person's life. His adoptive owner chose Gin because he is wonderful, loving, playful, wise, and funny. His age never entered into the decision.

The stately stud and the brood mama

In almost all circumstances, these Greyhounds have had exemplary racing records, are descendants of champions, or exhibit qualities believed to produce winners. They return to the farm when their racing days are over and they are expected to spend their time making baby Greyhounds. Dogs and bitches can remain studs and broods for many years, especially if they are prolific breeders and their offspring are winners. When not the case, the fortunate studs and

broods become available for adoption. The majority of these Greyhounds have already reached senior status.

Almost every adoption group has a stud or a brood available for adoption at one time or another during the year. Some adoption groups, such as Golden Years Senior Greyhounds (www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/7235/seniors.html), specialize in placing them and other seniors. More seniors can be found on Petfinder (www.petfinder.com/shelters/OH199.html). The Golden Years site also lists other senior placement groups, grouped by state or location.

Suzi — (almost) all of the above

Suzi came to us at age 15. She was a bounceback, and her little body showed indications that she had been a brood mama as well. Whatever her history, it didn't stop her from becoming a full and active member of our family. Suzi was originally one of our fosters, but her intended adoption fell through very quickly and she returned to us, tilting her head as if to say, "Where've you all been?"

Even though we had fostered Suzi, we wondered how we would care for such an old dog permanently. How, with only one tooth in her foxy little mouth, will she handle food? Can her wobbly rear end keep her upright long enough to complete the two-mile walks we take at least twice a day? What have we done? Those were just a few of the questions Dick and I asked each other about this undeniably ancient Greyhound.

Surprisingly, we never heard any snarky remarks about our new old dog. From the outset, Suzi had the ability to elicit "Oooohs" and "How sweets" from everyone she met. She had a personality that was apparent to everyone who knew her. She was caring, loving, and firm with her canine siblings; adamant, yet patient and devoted to Dick and me; warm, welcoming, and instructive to every foster who entered our house; and funny, surprising, happy, and full of life well into her twentieth year.

When we first moved to the shore, all the dogs missed the fenced yard. However, they soon got used to and enjoyed the long walks we would take around the neighborhood, on the beach, and to the bird sanctuary. Suzi, though, seemed a little unsettled about yet



Hubba Bubba, age 11, adopted by Rhonda and Christopher McAllister of Virginia Beach, Va.

another change in her life and developed anxiety-induced lick granulomas on both front paws. Nothing we tried would stop her from licking those feet. Nothing, that is, until I dressed her in toddler-sized socks. She wore them in the house, on trips in the car, and on our walks. On two occasions, she was gifted with new, seasonally appropriate socks by one of the workers at the construction site next door. Suzi wore her gift socks with pride. In time, the granulomas disappeared and the socks went into storage.

I saw Chester, the construction worker, a few months ago. We stopped to chat, discussed the weather, our health, what we were doing now and wished each other the best. As we were parting, Chester called back to me: "Nancy, I miss Socks." So do we, Chester, so do we.

Why would I want to?

If you truly want an answer to that question, ask it of any person who shares their life and home with a senior Greyhound. Each of

us has our reasons, experiences, and opinions, and we will be more than happy to share them with you. I can't speak for any senior owner other than myself, but I can tell you that, as long as we're able, the Waddell household will never be without a senior Greyhound. Or two, or three . . .

Additional websites with information about senior Greyhounds:

www.gpaseniorsanctuary.org

www.Greyhoundvillage.com/forums

www.Greyhoundsupport.org

An informative site about senior dogs:

www.srdogs.com/index.html ■

Nancy Waddell and her husband Dick became involved with Greyhounds in December of 1994 with the adoption of their first, Kelvin. Since then, they have shared their lives with four more permanent Greyhound family members and twenty-two fosters.



Suzi came to stay with the Waddell family at age 15 and lived to 20 years of age. Nancy Waddell



Magic, age 12, adopted by Carla Johnson of Browns Summit, N.C.

New Homes for Studs and Broods

By Ann Peterson, Kate Bressler, and Sue Burkhard

Why would someone want to adopt her?"

We hear it all the time. We'll be on a dog farm somewhere photographing younger retired Greyhounds and we'll see a dog with a white face and old eyes.

"So, who's this?"

"Oh, nobody would want her. She's almost ten."

"Is she available for adoption? May we take her picture?"

"No, I'd feel guilty adopting her out. I can't imagine anyone wanting a dog that will only live a couple years."

We tell them that we'll take any

Greyhound, regardless of age, and have moved dogs from 4 weeks to 14 years of age. (We wrote about our experience moving Greyhound puppies into adoption in "Where Do Puppies Come From?" in the Fall 2003 issue of CG.) We let them know that the person who would adopt a 10-year-old brood is not typically interested in adopting a 3-year-old retiree. It's marketing, and those senior dogs appeal to an entirely different demographic.

Then, we sit back and watch the Greyhound owner process this new information.

Greyhound Support in Kansas City (GSKC) is a support group that bridges the

gap between farms, owners, breeders, and trainers, and adoption groups. Since early 2000, GSKC has moved almost 2,200 retired Greyhounds into adoption groups from Vancouver, British Columbia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Approximately 10 percent of those retired Greyhounds were over 7 years old.

Five years ago, when we began moving dogs from farms to adoption groups, we saw that few older dogs were available. Many farm owners wouldn't think to show us their older dogs until we inquired. We asked about them from the beginning.

While at a local farm in 2001, we met Desi. "Who is this?" we asked. Not only was

Harts Desire 8 years old, she had an autoimmune problem that caused open, weeping sores around her nose and eyes. "Can we have her?" After a couple of weeks, they gave her to us. Desi received medication to control her Lupus. She now lives happily with Cara and Jerry Brockhoff in McKinleyville, California.

GSKC has worked with almost 70 farms and kennels. We let everyone know that no dog is too young, or too old. The farms and kennels appear to be telling others. In a recent posting on www.GlobalGreyhounds.org, a Greyhound owner asked for help petting out one of his broods. A reply was posted that encouraged him to call GSKC, which he did. We placed two of his broods with adoption groups.

After years of asking about the seniors and letting owners know we will take them, we receive calls to take many more. In the beginning, we would list three to five senior dogs on our website. Last May, as we prepared for our second Golden Grey haul, we had over 30 seniors pictured online. Together with Halfway Home Greyhound Adoption in Tulsa we organized the "Dream Haul" on June 10, 2005. There were 101 retired Greyhounds aboard, and 15 of them were over 7 years of age.

There has been a chain reaction: Breeders and owners make more senior dogs available. Greyhound adoption groups are more willing to take senior Greyhounds for placement. And a growing number of people are open to — and sometimes specifically seek out — senior Greyhounds as pets.

The growing devotion to seniors didn't come as an entire surprise. GSKC loves moving older dogs. Seniors have been Kate Bressler's passion since she adopted her first Greyhound over 10 years ago. That Greyhound was Shannon, an 11-year-old brood off a farm in Abilene. Shannon was followed by three more 11-year-olds: Mamie, KittyDog, and Angus. Then Sue Burkhard adopted 11-year-old Brittany. We know from personal experience that if you adopt a senior Greyhound, there is a good possibility that you will be hooked for life. Among the three of us, we have had 13 seniors, and five of them are still around.

The love of senior Greyhounds is deeply ingrained in GSKC. When we are organizing

a haul, we ask every group if they can take a senior. We also anticipate "Adopt-a-Senior" month, when Greyhound adoption groups offer seniors at reduced rates once or twice a year. For example, a few years ago, we got a call from Leann Zalasky of Rescued Racers in St. Louis, Missouri. Because senior month is in February, they were waiving the adoption fee for seniors. Rescued Racers had found homes for all of the seniors in their program, and they had applications waiting for older dogs. Leann asked if we could find more seniors. We did.

Greyhound adoption has come a long way in the 10 years since Kate adopted Shannon. With the Internet, adopters can almost shop for that special senior who meets their specific needs. Individual adoption groups feature available senior Greyhounds on their websites, and there are sites that specifically cater to the senior-Greyhound lover. For example, GoldenGreys, a Yahoo e-mail group, boasts more than 375 members dedicated to their senior Greyhounds.

Sue located and ultimately adopted Brittany with the help of Kelly Graham's Internet website, Senior Greyhounds and their Special Programs. (www.geocities.com/ohioGreyhounds/seniors.html). Kelly's website exists so groups can advertise their senior and special needs Greyhounds.

We've seen retired breeding Greyhounds

come from several places. Typically, they come from farms. An owner will call to let us know that a brood delivered her last litter and request that we add her to our regularly updated adoption list. Most of these farms take pictures and e-mail information about the dogs and their offspring.

In late 2004, Greyhound Support began attending the twice-yearly National Greyhound Association (NGA) meeting. At the end of each event the NGA holds two auctions. One auction sells very young race dogs, and the other sells broods and stud services. For a year or two, we watched the brood auction results on the NGA website and wondered what happened to the dogs that didn't sell. In 2004, we decided to attend the auction.

We downloaded the catalog and highlighted all broods that were over 8 years old. We spoke with a couple of the Greyhound owners we knew and asked them to point out those who had the broods we highlighted so we would know who to approach. We then took a seat in the grandstand and waited.

When the auction began, we watched the floor as they presented each brood. We waited to see who was passed (didn't sell), for whatever reason. Then we approached the owner to ask if they were interested in letting her go into adoption. If the owner agreed, we made



Mozart, age 13, adopted by Skip and Sue Sprague of Winter Harbor, Me.

arrangements to pick her up.

After that first auction, we talked to Gary Guccione, Secretary/Treasurer of the NGA. "How'd you do?" he asked. "Pretty well," we laughed. "We got seven."

Retired stud dogs are also becoming increasingly available. About 10 percent of the seniors GSKC moves into adoption are retiring stud dogs.

The stud's situation is a little different. While females can have relatively few litters of pups in their lifetime, males are able to sire hundreds or thousands of litters. Sires become available for various reasons. Sometimes they become sterile. More often, their offspring do not perform well enough to justify their continuing stud status.

The Internet plays a part in GSKC's acquisition of studs, too. A year or so ago, while visiting a farm that was going out of business, we asked about one of the old male Greyhounds, Aeromass. The farmers were reluctant to give

him up because they thought he had stud potential. When we returned to Kansas City, we checked www.Greyhound-Data.com and learned that Aeromass had not been bred in four years, and his 4-year-old offspring were just average racers. The next time we went back to the farm, we asked again. Ultimately, we received Aeromass and placed him into adoption. He now lives happily with Judy Pfaff and Brent Schlappy in Missoula, Montana.

We have found that seniors straight from a farm will walk into their new homes and look around as if to say *Yeah, I fit in here and look, there's my new bed*. This is just right. The life experience of these dogs seems to have prepared them to handle change with less stress than younger retirees. They are a joy to live with and you will never look at Greyhounds the same way again.

The growing passion for seniors has created a secondary market for the younger retirees.

We now watch the sires and dams of the younger dogs we move and when we recognize a name, we contact the group who received their mother or father. We try at every opportunity to reunite families and littermates.

GSKC wholeheartedly believes that every home should have a senior Greyhound. Your life will not be the same after adopting a senior.

(If you aren't ready to adopt a senior, volunteer to foster one ... yeah, that's it ... foster!)■

Ann Peterson lives in Kansas City with her husband and three ten-year-old Greyhounds Emmy, Claire and Polar Bear. Sue Burkhard lives in Benton Harbor, MI with six-year-old Dotti Hi Socks. Kate Bressler lives in Kansas City with nine-year-old Greyhounds Bojack and Shadow. Greyhound Support in Kansas City was formed in 1998 to help move retired, injured and/or unwanted Greyhounds into adoption groups.



Godiva, age 11, adopted by John and Joanne Cashman of Mission Viejo, Calif.



Alice, age 13, adopted by Cara and Jerry Brockhoff of McKinleyville, Calif.

New Approaches to Placing Old Dogs

By Nancy Bataile

About a year ago, I began to see an alarming trend of senior bounce-backs and senior Greyhounds showing up in local shelters. Some of these were Greyhounds with whose initial adoptions through Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) in Largo, Florida I was personally involved when the hounds were 2 to 4 years old. Now they were 10 years old or older. I found this disheartening. How could anyone even think of giving up a Greyhound who had been part of the family for so long?

At the same time, my very first Greyhound Maku, who came into my life at 5 and-a-half years of age, passed away at the age of 15. I was heartbroken over the loss of my very best friend

and alarmed by all the seniors being returned. I decided it was time to focus solely on this new problem and try to figure out ways to help keep senior Greyhounds from being returned.

At the GPA National Meeting in 2004, a group of us received permission to be the first GPA group to specialize in senior Greyhounds and their placements. Julie and Matt Gabrielski, Steve Kloppenburg, and I set out on what has so far been an enriching journey of working with many special senior Greyhounds and people. We became Greyhound Pets of America Senior Sanctuary of Florida.

We have tried to target a different group of potential new adopters by finding places to show our seniors. While we hold meet-and-

greet at Petco every Sunday, we also appear at many events that are not pet-related such as craft shows, car shows, children's school functions, scout meetings, and so forth. We have taken our Greyhounds to retirement communities to speak to elderly people in hopes of sparking an adoption or at least some much needed donations to keep our dream a reality. We leave brochures at many area animal hospitals for families who might be looking for a new pet or would like to volunteer and foster. We have found the non-pet venues to be much more fruitful sources of new adopters or new foster homes.

The biggest obstacle in marketing senior Greyhounds is the health concerns that often

come with age: poor teeth, special diets, arthritis, and the need for routine blood work. Many prospective Greyhound owners are concerned about the additional costs associated with these needs, which is understandable. I would much rather know that cost is a concern up front than receive a bounceback years later who is suffering from neglect.

We spend a lot of time educating the public about health care for senior pets. We find that reviewing these concerns when a new pet is younger is most effective. Many people don't worry about the future, much less plan for it. I believe if people were more educated about what they will need to do to keep their pet healthy for the pet's entire life, many of these bouncebacks might never happen. People should know how to take care of their new young Greyhound, but they should also know what steps to take along the way to preserve the health of the pet as he ages.

So far we have been pretty successful in getting the word out about what wonderful pets senior Greyhounds make. We found quite a few families (even those with young children) who are willing to open their hearts and homes to a Greyhound 7 years of age or older.

We look for new foster homes too. Good foster home candidates are people who



Miss Buffy, age 12, adopted by Janny Planting of Houston, Texas.

already foster but don't mind taking in an extra Greyhound who's not too active. We've also had success with people who don't already have a Greyhound but have an older pet and are willing to house another dog if their pet's life won't be too disrupted by the new guest.

We have a very effective permanent foster home program we call Seniors Helping Seniors. Many elderly people are extremely capable of providing a wonderful home for a senior Greyhound but their fixed incomes do not provide the financial resources to handle the additional expenses that senior Greyhounds often require. Each of our permanent foster homes has chosen a senior Greyhound to foster indefinitely. The foster caregiver and the Senior Sanctuary sign a contract stating what the caregiver can provide financially for the Greyhound's daily care and that the group will continue to provide for the rest of the Greyhound's life. Many of the senior Greyhounds in our program have major health concerns (often the result of veterinary neglect by their previous owner) and would be difficult placements. Some of the seniors in this program are 13 and 14 years old. Our elderly caregivers provide wonderful homes for the Greyhounds in this program. The senior Greyhounds finally have a place to rest, and we know their every need will be met. (Of course, these caregivers are usually home all day to spoil their senior Greyhounds.)

Our best example of how this program benefits everyone is our very first Seniors Helping Seniors relationship; 80-year-old Adrienne Sondergeld and her new best friend, Simon. A couple of months ago we received a call from Adrienne's nephew. He told us that his aunt was very lonely and was seriously thinking of adopting a Greyhound. Adrienne is legally blind, so she spends most of her time at home. I called Adrienne and told her about the available Greyhounds. She inquired about the adoption fee and mentioned her fixed income. I explained that our group charges an adoption fee to cover expenses associated with dental procedures and vaccines. She said that although she was more than willing to give a Greyhound a loving home, she would have difficulty paying the adoption fee or covering any unforeseen medical expenses. Julie and I put our heads together and decided that there

must be many people like Adrienne who could provide wonderful homes if the unforeseen expenses weren't such an overwhelming concern. After receiving her application, talking at length with her sister and nephew, and conducting a home visit, we decided to show Adrienne some of our harder to place senior Greyhounds. We showed her 10-year-old Blackjack (hates to have his feet touched, not happy around a lot of other pets, not good with small dogs or cats), 10-year-old Beau (somewhat grumpy, few teeth left, not good with small dogs and cats), and 7-year-old Hoss (also grumpy, a bit standoffish, very jealous, fights with other dogs, not good with small dogs and cats). The three older gentlemen did their best to win her over. Adrienne liked Hoss the most because he was the largest and easiest to see with her failing eyesight. Hoss became Simon after he was with her a few days. Simon is Adrienne's only pet and her new best friend. He alerts her with a quick bark when someone is walking down the street or coming up her driveway. Adrienne can sleep through the night knowing Simon is on the floor next to her bed, ready to alert her to any unusual noises. Adrienne looks forward to each day with her new buddy and spoils him terribly. Simon knows he is in his forever home, and Adrienne knows she is not alone. Everyone benefits from our permanent foster home program.

Any of the Greyhounds in our Seniors Helping Seniors program would be a challenging placement. The Senior Sanctuary would continue to be responsible for their food, housing, and medical needs for the remainder of their lives anyway. Through our permanent foster care program, we continue to raise funds to pay for their long term care, while the dogs receive housing, food, and love from people who have plenty of time and love to give.

Creative marketing, educating potential adopters about the special needs of seniors, and the Seniors Helping Seniors program are initiatives that have worked well for the Senior Sanctuary. We specialize in senior Greyhounds, and we enjoy every minute of it. ■

Nancy Bataille is President of GPA Senior Sanctuary of Florida.



A gathering of Galgos.

Greyhound Gatherings Abroad

Last spring, GINN held a reunion for the Greyhounds and Galgos placed by its volunteers. Greyhounds are pack animals; so, it seems, are their adoptive owners. At events ranging from elaborate annual affairs to impromptu get-togethers, Greyhounds and their people gravitate towards one another. These events are a wonderful reminder of how special our Greyhounds are, and how much the Greyhound adoption community has accomplished over the years. The granddaddy of all Greyhound events, Greyhounds Reach the Beach, will take place October 7-10, 2005 in Dewey Beach, Delaware. The "You're Invited" section in this issue lists over two dozen Greyhound events in North America. And as these photographs illustrate, celebrating Greyhounds is a worldwide phenomenon. —Ed.

Galgo Reunion

Photographs by Olof Bruynzeel

In 1999, Greyhounds in Nood Nederland (Greyhounds in Distress, the Netherlands) was founded to act on behalf of the Spanish Greyhounds and Galgos who are abandoned and mistreated after they are retired from racing or hunting. GINN is one of several international and other Dutch organizations that support the Scooby shelter in Medina del Campo, Spain. GINN volunteers support Scooby by raising money to support the shelter and care for the dogs, traveling to Spain to work at the shelter, and finding loving homes for these dogs in the Netherlands.

Recently, GINN found a home for its 750th Spanish Galgo.

It was a great day. — Petra Hartlief





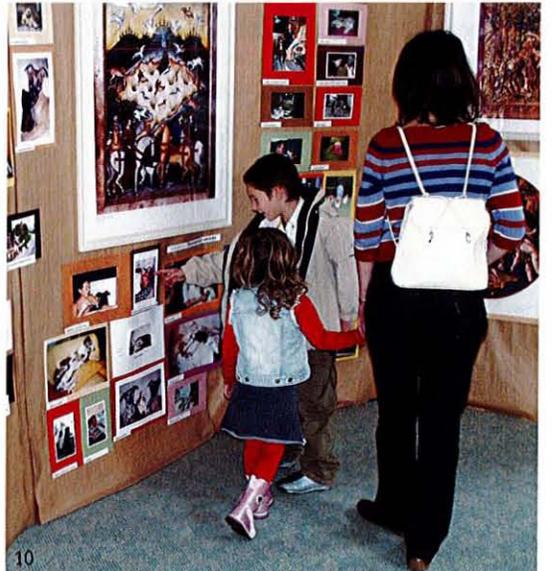
Greyhound Week in Pontault-Combault
 Photographs by Nathalie Cloux

Lévriers en Détresse is devoted to the rescue and adoption of all sighthound breeds in France. Nathalie Cloux founded a support association, Amis de Lévriers en Détresse 77 (ALED77), to promote sighthound adoption in her local area. She organized the first Greyhound Week in Pontault-Combault, near Paris, September 20-26, 2004. Two thousand visitors from France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany attended.

The Second Greyhound Week is scheduled for September 12-18, 2005. —Nathalie Cloux ■



1. Sighthounds in attendance got to run on the impromptu sprint track.
2. Anne Finch, President and Founder of Greyhounds in Need, spoke of her work with Greyhounds and Galgos.
3. Catherine Madry-Wojciechowski, Founder and President of Lévriers en Détresse, reported that the organization rehomed 400 sighthounds of all breeds in four years.
4. ALED77 volunteers Corinne, Nathalie (ALED77 President), Franck, Agnes, Maryline, and Veronique made Greyhound Week happen.



5. On Sunday morning, Father Martin organized a blessing of the Greyhounds in Pontault-Combault church.
6. Bruno and Soline and their Greyhound, Jules, present the medieval tale of the Legend of Guinefort, in which a Greyhound protects an infant against a snake.
7. Participants enjoyed the art exhibition devoted to the sighthounds of Pontault-Combault.
8. More than 2,000 visitors attended Greyhound Week in Pontault-Combault.
9. The Galgos were very friendly with visitors.
10. A photo contest raised funds for Lévriers en Détresse.

Friday through Sunday, September 2-4
 2005 North American Greyhound Adoption
 Conference
 Wyndham Westshore Hotel
 4860 W. Kennedy Blvd.
 Tampa, Fla.

This year's meeting is sponsored by Greyhound
 Pets of America/Tampa. For details, visit [www.gpa-
 convention.org](http://www.gpa-convention.org).

Saturday and Sunday, September 9 & 10
 High Desert Greyhound Fiesta
 GPA/New Mexico Greyhound Connection and A
 Place for Us Greyhound Adoption
 Sports Complex
 Rio Rancho, N.M.

Fun and games, coursing, agility, obedience
 demonstrations, Desert Dash, educational speakers,
 silent auction, raffle, picnic. Contact: Candy Beck,
 (505)897-0427 or info@nmgreyhoundconnection.org;
www.nmgreyhoundconnection.org.

Saturday, September 10
 Eighth Annual Picnic
 Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption
 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Battle Creek Regional Park
 2300 Upper Afton Road
 Maplewood, Minn.

Greyhounds, fun, food, vendors, raffle, auction,
 and the fabulous Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds
 will entertain and delight us all. Contact: Donna Barr,
 (763) 754-9754 or guber2nac@aol.com



Sunday, September 11
 Annual Reunion and Picnic
 Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption of
 Michigan, Inc.
 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Bell Creek Park
 Inkster and 5 Mile Roads
 Redford Township, Mich.

Fun, games, food and shopping. Reunite with the
 Greyhounds you helped save. Contact: Colleen
 Dykstra, (248) 656-5645; dazygrey@comcast.net

Sunday, September 11
 Annual Picnic
 Greyhound Pets of America/Northern Virginia
 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Franklin Still Pond Community Center
 12700 Franklin Farm Road
 Oak Hill, Va.

Games, food, GPA store, costume contest, raffles,
 silent auction. Contacts: Micky Foreman, [mygrey-
 hounds@usadatanet.net](mailto:mygrey-

 hounds@usadatanet.net); Kathy Keefer, [jkkaitkyle@
 aol.com](mailto:jkkaitkyle@

 aol.com); Gay LaNasa, gayfer@msn.com

September 12-18
 Greyhound Planet

Greyhound Planet is a time chosen each year to
 honor the Greyhound and its relatives (Galgos,
 lurchers, etc.) throughout the world. The purpose of
 this international event is to raise the public's aware-
 ness of the wonder and magic of Greyhounds as pets,
 educate others on the current status of Greyhounds
 around the world, and to honor those Greyhounds
 who have left us already. For a complete listing of
 events (and to list your group's event), please visit
www.ameurogreyhoundalliance.org/ghplanet.htm

Saturday, September 17
 Greyt Greyhound Gathering
 GPA/MoKan
 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Salvation Army Three Trails Camp and
 Conference Center
 16200 E. Highway 40
 Kansas City, Mo.

Contact: Shannon Henson, (816) 252-8056
 or Shannon@gpamokan.org

Sunday, September 18
 Third Annual Picnic
 Greyhound Welfare, Inc.
 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Circle D Farm
 15535 Carrs Mill Road
 Woodbine, Md.

Bring your Greyhound for a day of food and fun.
 Shop for you or your Greyhound at one or our vendors,
 see a lure coursing demonstration, and learn more
 about your Greyhound at a Q&A session with Lee
 Livingood, author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for
 Dummies*. \$15/adults, \$10/children. Advance registra-
 tion recommended. Contacts: Julie Sanders, (301) 980-
 7753 or js@greyhoundwelfare.org; Jenny Glenn, (301)
 949-0615 or jg_consult@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 18
 Annual Picnic and Reunion
 Greyhound Rescue, Inc.
 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Carderock Park
 Carderock, Md.

Annual reunion celebrating Greyhound adoption.
 Bring a dish to share and a blanket for your hounds.
 Contact: Darlene Riden, (410) 721-1154 or
d.riden@comcast.net; www.greyrescue.org

Saturday and Sunday, September 24 & 25
 It's a Greyhound Life!
 Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth
 (GLOHW)
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 The Binbrook Fairgrounds
 Binbrook, Ontario, Canada

Our fifth annual celebration of Greyhound life
 with special guests The Gilley Girls Dancing
 Greyhounds. Events, seminars, and opportunities to
 shop and socialize. Contact: Heather Geres, (905) 692-
 5790 or glohw@glohw.on.ca; www.glohw.on.ca

Sunday, September 25
 Fifteenth Annual Greyhound Homecoming
 Make Peace with Animals
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Valley Road Picnic Site
 Valley Road
 Hopewell Twp., N.J.

Our annual Homecoming will be held rain or
 shine. Vendors, Blessing of the Hounds, Memorial
 Service, tick testing, vegetarian buffet, silent auction.
 \$5.00 parking fee. Contact: JoAnn Fotheringham,
 (609) 448-1742 or jofother@aol.com; [www.make-
 peacewithanimals.org](http://www.make-

 peacewithanimals.org)

Friday - Sunday, September 30-October 2
 Prairie Beach: A Gathering of Champions
 Heartland Greyhound Adoption
 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 9:00
 p.m. Saturday; 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Sunday
 Settle Inn and Suites
 Altoona, Ia.

Join us for our fourth annual celebration of Greyhounds. Greyhound adoption supporters from 13 states and Canada have attended our first three years, and you can get in on the action! We'll feature an appearance by the Gilley Girls Dancing Greyhounds, give everyone a chance to meet Jo Ann Bennett-Boltinghouse, author of YolandaBaby Meets the Bippers, and have a raffle and auction of Greyhound-related merchandise. Contacts: Mary Neubauer, (515) 238-7292 or mneubauer@mchsi.com; Eugenio Coco, (515) 334-5419 or endcoco1@mchsi.com; Jorene King, (515) 967-6564 or joreneross@aol.com; www.heartlandgreyhoundadoption.org.

Saturday, October 1
 Doggone Birthday Bash
 Greyhound Adoption Center
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 The Canine Sports Center
 4821 Dehesa Road
 El Cajon, Calif.

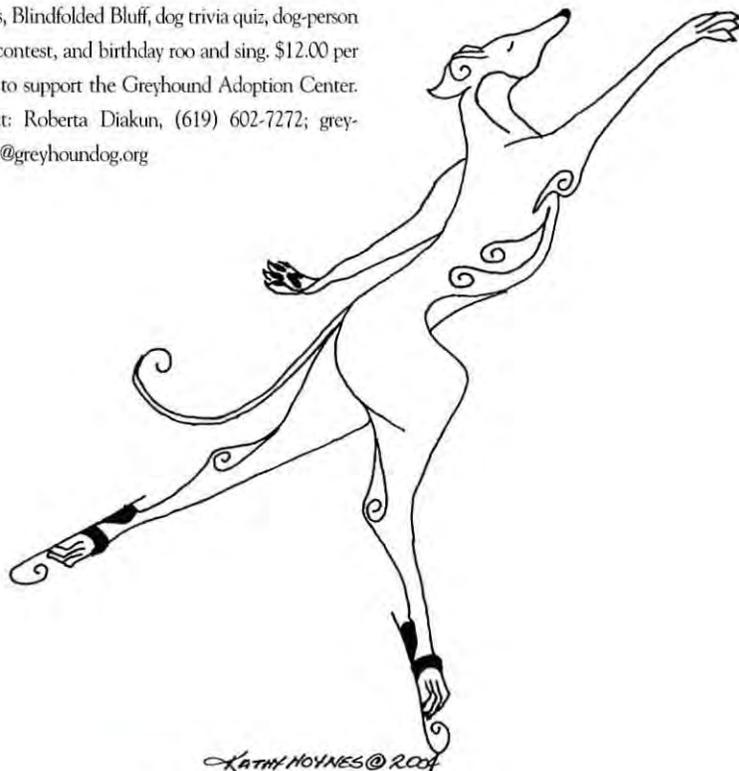
It's a birthday party for all dogs! Bring your dog (on leash) and join us for games, contests, raffles, great shopping, a picnic lunch and, of course, cake and ice cream (or Frosty Paws). Musical Paws, Bobbing for Biscuits, Blindfolded Bluff, dog trivia quiz, dog-person dance contest, and birthday roo and sing. \$12.00 per person to support the Greyhound Adoption Center. Contact: Roberta Diakun, (619) 602-7272; greyhounds@greyhounddog.org

Saturday and Sunday, October 1-2
 Fall Open House
 Greyhound Friends, Inc.
 Noon to 5:00 p.m.
 167 Saddle Hill Road
 Hopkinton, Mass.

Join us at our annual fall open house. Good good, great company (lots of visiting adopted Greyhounds), shopping for humans and hounds, silent auction and raffle, Not Quite Westminster Dog Show. Let your Greyhound run in the fenced field. The Greyhounds in the kennel waiting for homes always love visitors. Everyone is welcome with their hounds. Contact: Louise Coleman, greyhndfids@aol.com

Friday through Sunday, October 7-9
 Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival
 Greyhounds of Fairhaven
 Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;
 Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Sunset Park Lakeside
 2601 E. Sunset Road
 Las Vegas, Nev.

For the fourth year The Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at this event. If you will be in the Las Vegas area, please come by to say hello and meet our most noble hounds. For additional information please visit our website at www.GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsOfFairhaven.org



Saturday, October 22
 Trick or Treat Greyhound Reunion
 Arizona Greyhound Rescue
 Noon to 3:00 p.m.
 Reid Park, Ramada 1
 On Country Club Road between Broadway and
 22nd
 Tucson, Ariz.

Halloween theme with prizes, games, food, raffle, and vendors. All Greyhounds invited. Contact: Karyn Zoldan, (520) 318-1222 or azgreyhoundrescue@lycos.com

Sunday, October 23
 Greyhound Gathering
 All-Star Greyhounds
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds
 Lafayette, Ind.

Fundraiser, vendors, speaker, raffle, games. Contact: Sue, (765) 471-1832; Indiana.greyhounds@verizon.net

Saturday, October 29
 Annual Greyhound Picnic
 Racing Dog Rescue Project
 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Sun and Fun RV Park
 7125 Fruitville Road
 Sarasota, Fla.

Contests, animal psychics, vendors galore, and an auction of items generously donated by local businesses. Contact: Nancy Quinn, (941) 751-1088 or gryhndldy@tampabayrr.com

Saturday, October 29
 Fourth Annual Greyt Greyhounds
 & Friends Fair
 Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption, Inc.
 Starts at 10:00 a.m.
 Graff Pavilion, O.B. Schnabel Park
 9606 Bandera Road
 San Antonio, Texas

Come one, come all to a time of fun, food, and fellowship where activities focusing on animal and family fun abound including raffle, silent auction, dog contests, vendors, photo booth, and much more. Contact: Elizabeth Cygan, (210) 496-2398, ecygan@heartoftexasgreyhounds.com or Cheryl King, (210) 621-0123, hotgreyhounds@ev1.net

Saturday, October 29

GreyFest
Southeastern Greyhound Adoption-
GPA/Atlanta
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Piedmont Park, Midtown
Atlanta, Ga.

Join us for our annual gathering of Greyhounds in Atlanta! This year we welcome Lee Livingood, author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*. Photos, portraits, caricatures, vendors, pet products, pet treats, and goodies for the whole family. Great Greyhound costume contest and parade celebrating the end of October. Contact: Keri Tomsic, (770) GREYPET or events@greyhoundadoption.org; www.GreyhoundAdoption.org

Saturday, November 5

Annual Picnic
GPA/Tampa Bay
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fred Howard Park
1700 Sunset Drive
Tarpon Springs, Fla.

Greyhounds and their families gather for a day of food, fun, and shopping. Contact: Maryann Tolliver, (727) 709-0080 or maryann@greyhoundpets.com

Saturday and Sunday, November 5 & 6, 2005

Doña Ana Arts Council Renaissance Crafftfaire
Greyhounds of Fairhaven
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Young Park
Las Cruces, N.M.

Again this year Greyhounds of Fairhaven will be promoting Greyhound adoption at the Doña Ana Arts Council Renaissance Crafftfaire. If you will be in the Las Cruces area, please come by to say hello and meet our most noble hounds. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsofFairhaven.org; www.GreyhoundsofFairhaven.org

Sunday, November 6

Tenth Anniversary Reunion
Greyhounds Only
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Warren Park Field House
6601 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, Ill.

Big raffle prizes and a 50/50 raffle, live and silent auction, pet photos, fabulous vendors, interactive games for your and your hound, rest area for that senior or tired dog (bring blankies and muzzles), and much more. Admission \$5.00/person or \$15.00/families of 3 or more. Free parking. GO asks that your other treasured pets stay home so we may celebrate our Greyhounds Only. Contact: Shannon Hodge, (773) 818-5734 or ldj2239@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, November 13

Third Birthday Party
Greyhound Adoption of Greater Rochester, N.Y.
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Boom Towne Canine Center
1296 Beaver Creek Road
Farmington, N.Y.

Cake, punch, and dog biscuits will be served. Contact: Brenda Grammatico, (585) 377-0811 or events@greyhoundadopt.org

Saturday and Sunday, November 19 & 20

Devonshire Renaissance Faire
Greyhounds of Fairhaven
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Los Olivos City Park
2802 E. Devonshire Street
Phoenix, Ariz.

Again this year The Greyhounds of Fairhaven be promoting Greyhound adoption at the Devonshire Renaissance Faire. If you will be in the Phoenix please come by to say hello and meet our most noble hounds. Contact: Marsha Roe, (602) 493-1063 or info@GreyhoundsofFairhaven.org; www.GreyhoundsofFairhaven.org

Saturday and Sunday, December 3 & 4

Ninth Annual Craft Show and Pet Expo
Greyhound Friends of New Jersey
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday
4-H Building
Milltown Road
Bridgewater, N.J.

Craft show and pet expo featuring wonderful vendors selling a variety of items for both humans and our animal friends, raffle, Santa photos, Greyhound adoption information, bake table, refreshments. Contact: Patty Comerford, (732) 566-2226 or pac173@aol.com

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Winter Gathering
GPA/Nashville
Livestock Center at Middle Tennessee State
University
Murfreesboro, Tenn. (35 miles south of Nashville)

Food, vendors, games, and a chance for muzzled hounds to run off lead in the heated livestock arena. \$5/individual, \$10/family. Contact: Mardy Fones, (615) 297-2033 or mafones@comcast.net; www.nashvillegreys.com



Marketplace

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has teamed up "again" for another 50% fund raiser to benefit Greyhound Adoptions of Florida, to help the rescue/adoption efforts of the retired broods, special needs and farm greyhounds.

Come and check out all the greyt Wiggles, Wags & Whiskers merchandise being sold at Dewey and other events this year. We would like to THANK all the volunteers of Greyhound Adoptions of Florida for their help in selling at all these events. We intend to continue working together to help these greyhounds find their way to "Forever Homes". To ALL our customers and volunteers, a HUGE THANK YOU.



valuable lessons are learned in the meaning of commitment, trust and "Forever Home". The large 9X10 soft cover books are lavishly illustrated. The books retail for \$10.95 and over 20% from the sale of every book goes to save a greyhound. The five piece collection makes a wonderful gift!



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For adoption information for these wonderful greyhounds, please email Marilyn at mvarnberg@earthlink.net
Only from Greyhound Love Collectibles!! To order visit, www.greyhoundlove.com

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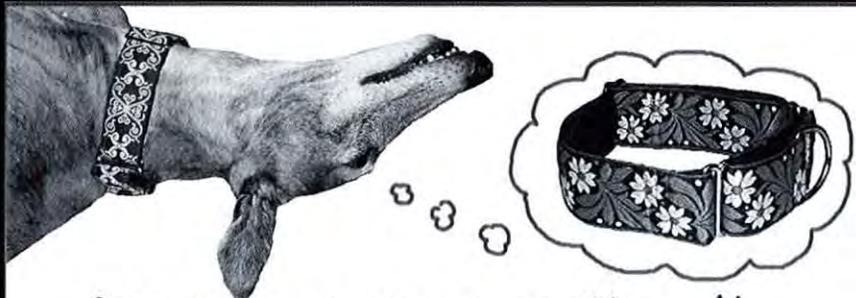


A Magical Time!

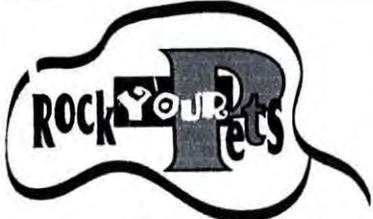
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Our 5th and final book in the "Greyhound Love" series of children's books. "A Magical Time" will be available in print at Dewey Beach in 2005. "Greyhound Love", "The Home Stretch", "From Track To Back", and "Go For The Gold", are also available. Share the adventures as

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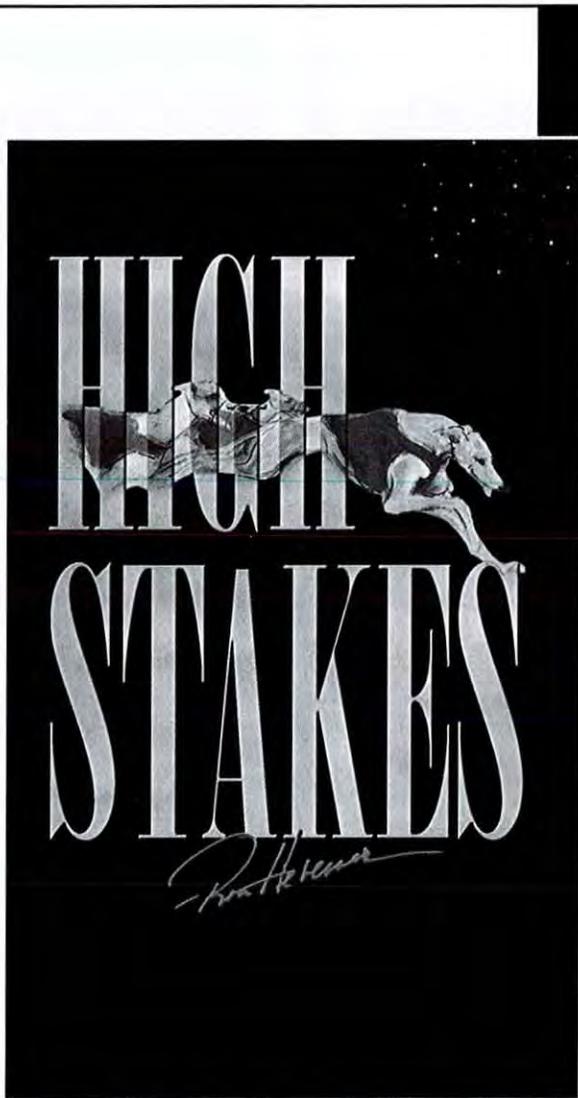
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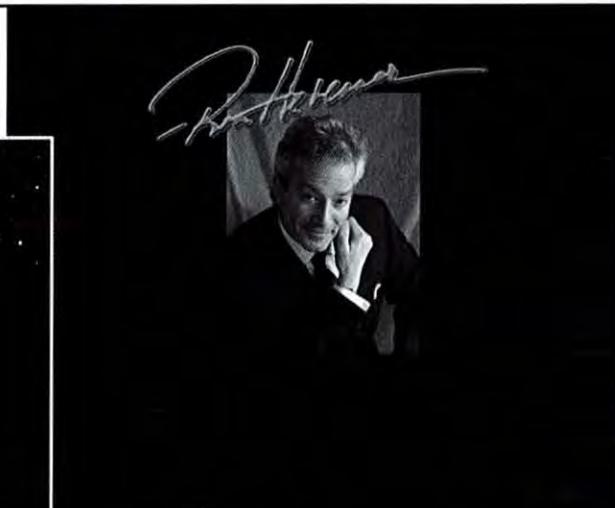
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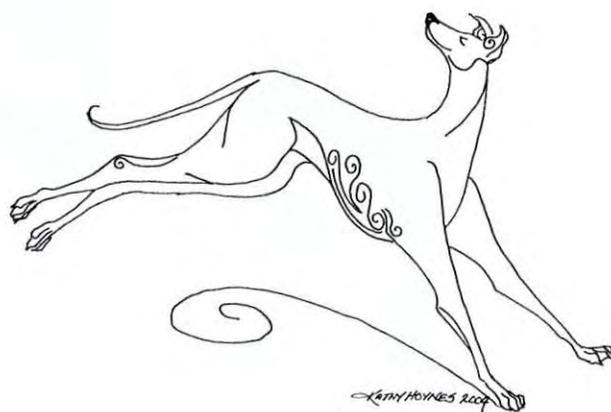
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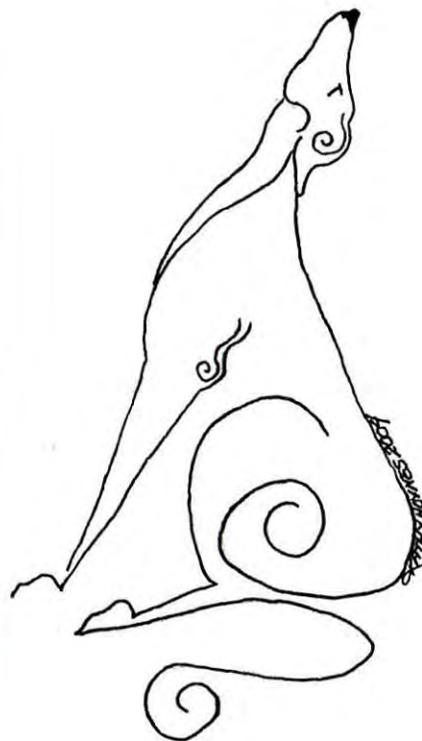
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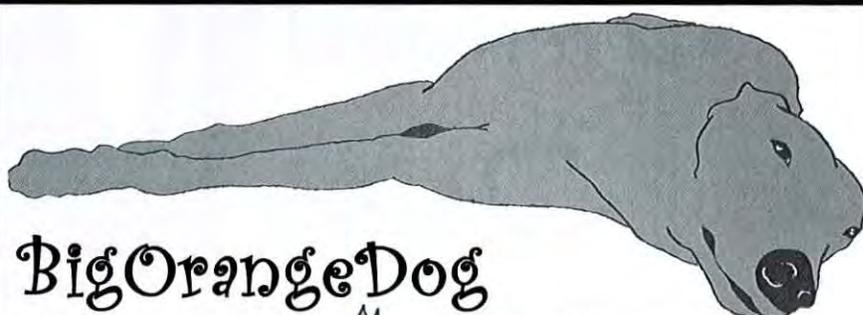
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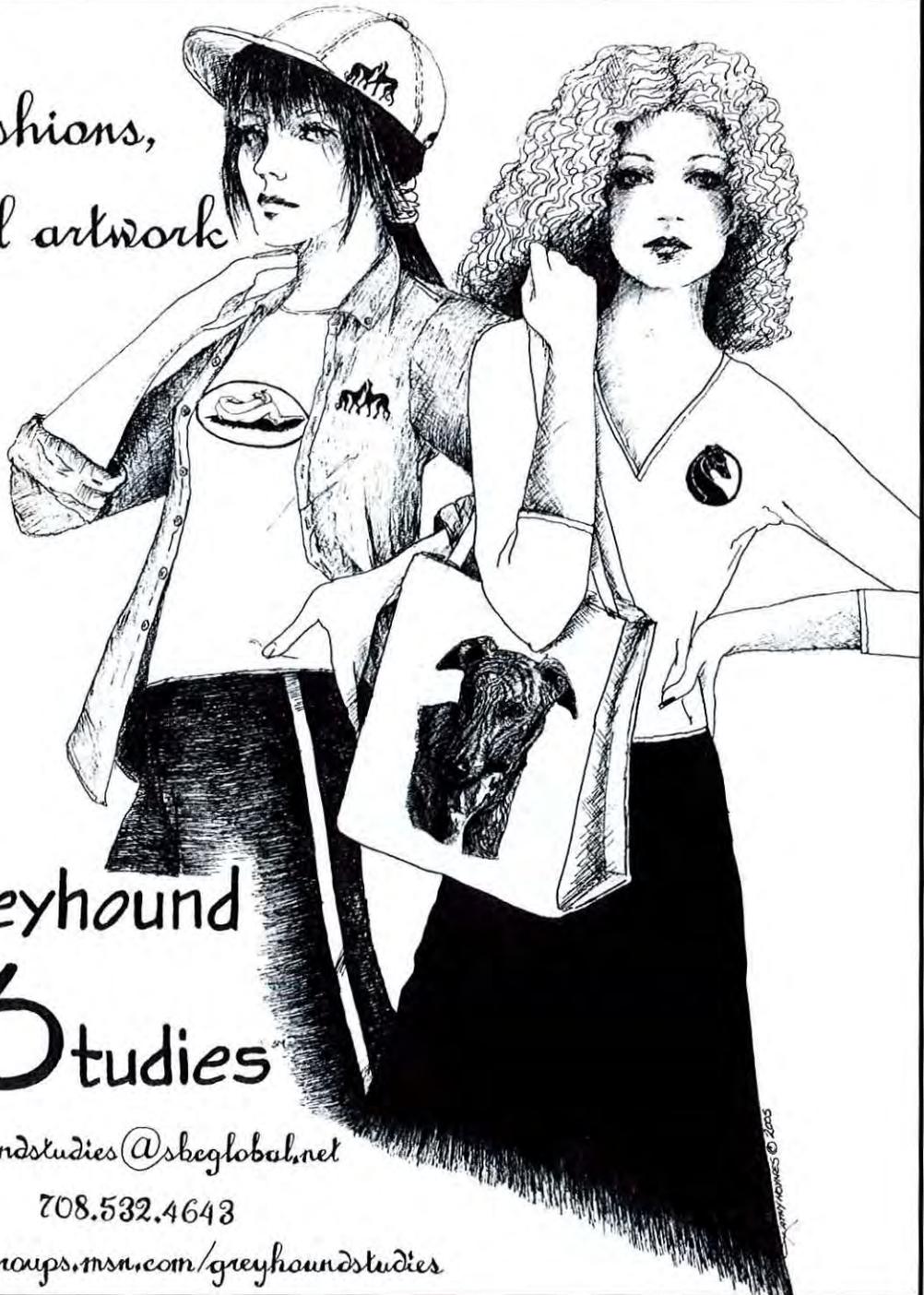
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Fred 1993-2005

Adopted by Dennis and Ann Appel, Fred was the subject of "Fred's Miracle: From Total Paralysis to Whole Hound" (Winter 2000 *CG*). Beloved companion and cherished family member Fred passed away peacefully, his indomitable spirit freed from his cancer-filled body at noon on the first day of summer. It was fitting that at the precise moment of the year the sun is at its warmest and brightest, the heavens received one of its brightest stars. After his recovery from paralysis, Fred continued to be the quintessential ambassador for Greyhound adoption. About two years ago, Fred began his retirement in earnest when he and his family moved to Monterey, Calif. From his second story deck overlooking the ocean, Fred enjoyed long hours laying in the sunshine on his bed, smelling the ocean breezes, and serenely surveying his world. Today an azalea grows in a planter on the deck next to the spot where Fred soaked in the sunshine, a gift from one of the veterinary clinics that cared for him and like so many others, miss him deeply.



Golden Girl 1993-2005

Golden Girl was featured on the cover of the Spring 1998 issue of *CG*. She died at the age of 12 after a struggle with cancer. She

had a short and undistinguished racing career. Only her last race was memorable; in the middle of the race, she jumped the inside rail to run and play in the track infield. Golden Girl was John Parker's second Greyhound and quite a contrast to his first, Brandy. Brandy was calm and serene; Golden Girl was silly and vivacious. She believed that you should never walk when you can run, whether the distance was ten feet or a thousand. John and Golden Girl spent nine years together, and she made him laugh almost every day of it. She died peacefully in the shade of a tree under which she often enjoyed exploring. She was buried next to Brandy, her old traveling buddy, at the top of a hill with a commanding view of the farm.



Sherlock 1993-2005

Adopted by Lisa Croote, Sherlock was pictured most recently on page 39 of the Winter 2003 issue of *CG*. He was laid to rest after suffering a short time due to a mass on his liver and an enlarged heart. Sherlock was a happy dog, full of life, and playful as a little puppy until his diagnosis about two months before his passing. He raced in Mexico and was brought to New York by a local adoption group. Lisa met Sherlock when he was being fostered by a friend. She fell in love with him immediately and could not give him up. Sherlock became Lisa's best friend. He loved riding in the cars with the windows rolled down and the cool air blowing his ears. He loved to take walks in the park; there was nothing Lisa enjoyed more than seeing his smiling face at the end of a difficult day. Sherlock will live forever in the precious memories Lisa holds tightly in a place in her heart reserved only for him.



Old Fella (Waycross Country) 1990-2005

Old Fella was loved by Cheryl and Scott King for the last eighteen months of his life. His story appeared in the Winter 2004 issue of *CG*. He was best known for his story, the throaty "woofs" which he made heard above all others, his demand that he be hand-fed by his dad when he felt the need, and his randy behavior — at age 14 — around retired brood matron Lovely Miss Rita. Old Fella's kind, gentle nature was testament to the resiliency of the Greyhound spirit and the senior Greyhounds, who give back twice the love that they receive. His legacy will remain in the hearts of the Greyhound community, who took him into their hearts and called him their own. He inspired The Greyhound Angel Network to create the Old Fella Senior Fund, which provides financial assistance to needy individuals and groups seeking life-enhancing treatments for their Greyhounds.

Without the Greyhounds whose stories and images populate its pages, Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine would not exist. With In Memoriam, we express our gratitude and bid farewell to those who have, in previous issues of CG, enriched our lives by sharing a bit of themselves with us.



Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine
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